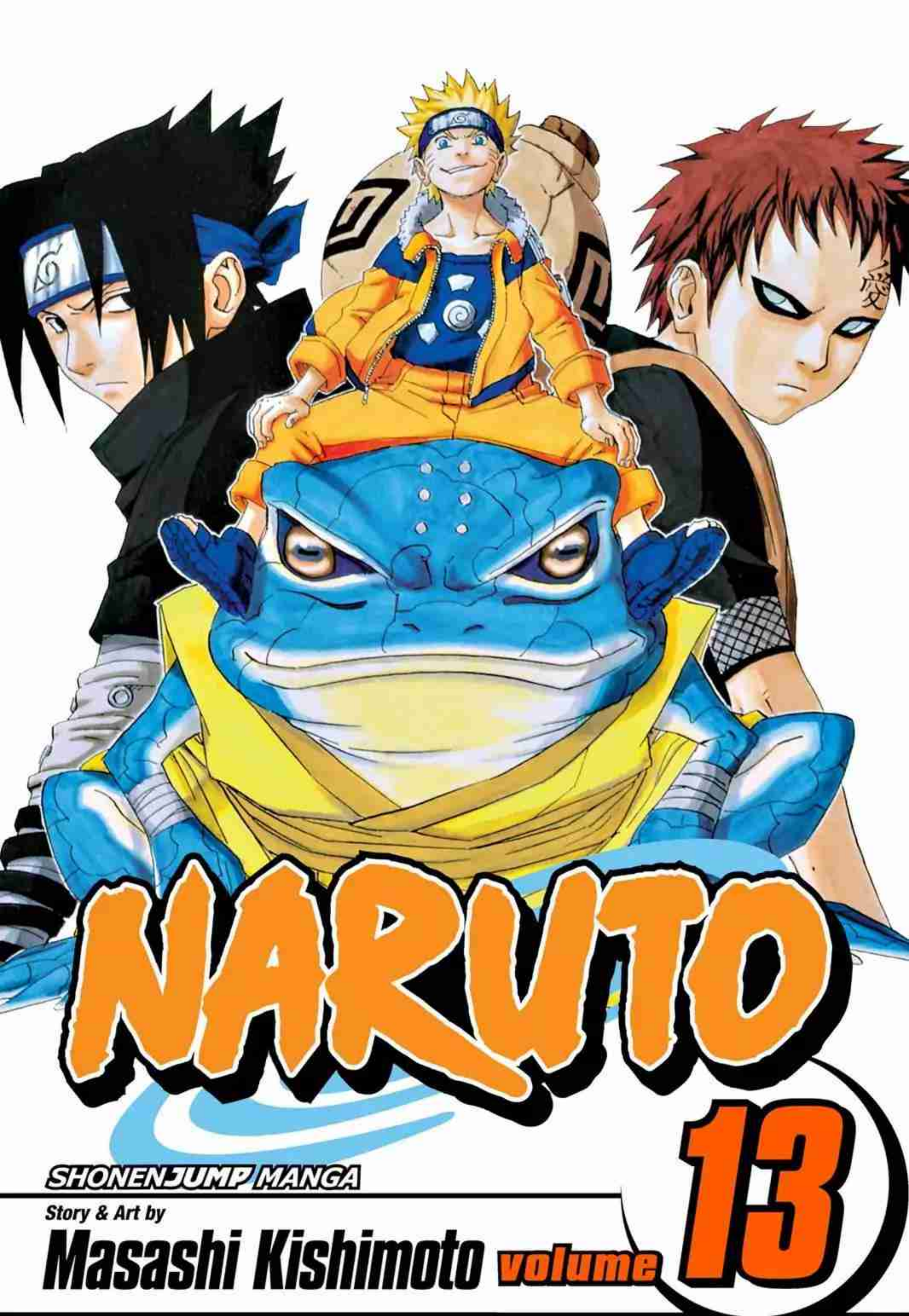
NARUTO
13
SHONEN JUMP MANGA
Story & Art by
Masashi Kishimoto
volume

岸本斉史

Science Fiction movies are on the rise again...Right now they rank at the top of the box office in revenue, so I was thinking to myself, "Wow, everyone must really like Sci Fi..." and then I realized I'm one of those people too!

—*Masashi Kishimoto, 2002*

Author/artist Masashi Kishimoto was born in 1974 in rural Okayama Prefecture, Japan. After spending time in art college, he won the Hop Step Award for new manga artists with his manga **Karakuri** (Mechanism). Kishimoto decided to base his next story on traditional Japanese culture. His first version of **Naruto**, drawn in 1997, was a one-shot story about fox spirits; his final version, which debuted in **Weekly Shonen Jump** in 1999, quickly became the most popular ninja manga in Japan.

NARUTO VOL. 13
SHONEN JUMP Manga Edition

This graphic novel contains material that was originally published in English in **SHONEN JUMP** #48–50. Artwork in the magazine may have been slightly altered from that presented here.

STORY AND ART BY MASASHI KISHIMOTO

Translation & English Adaptation/Mari Morimoto
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Additional Touch-up/Josh Simpson
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Editor/Joel Enos

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PARENTAL ADVISORY
NARUTO is rated T for Teen and is recommended for ages 13 and up. This volume contains tobacco use and realistic and fantasy violence.

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www.shonenjump.com

SHONEN JUMP MANGA

NARUTO

VOL. 13

THE CHÛNIN EXAM, CONCLUDED...!!

STORY AND ART BY

MASASHI KISHIMOTO

SAKURA サクラ

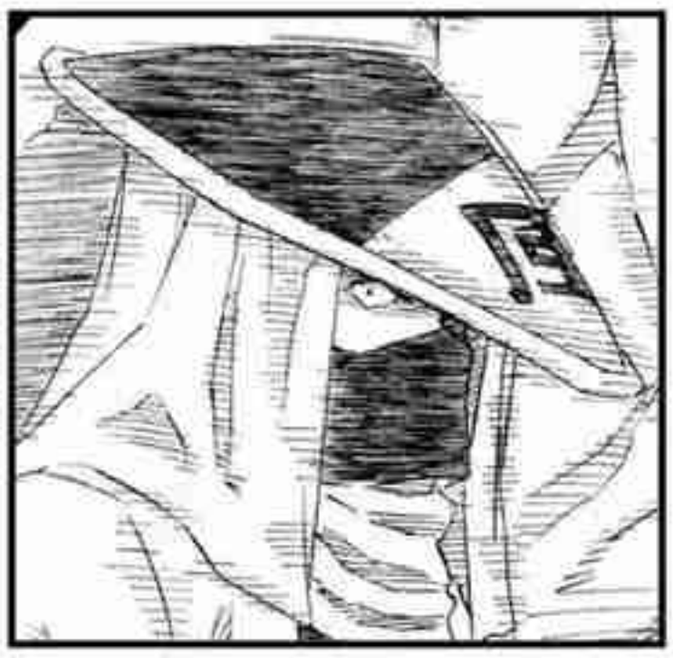
Smart and studious, Sakura is the brightest of Naruto's classmates, but she's constantly distracted by her crush on Sasuke. Her goal: to win Sasuke's heart!

NARUTO ナルト

When Naruto was born, a destructive fox spirit was imprisoned inside his body. Spurned by the older villagers, he's grown into an attention-seeking trouble-maker. His goal: to become the village's next *Hokage*.

SASUKE サスケ

The top student in Naruto's class, Sasuke comes from the prestigious Uchiha clan. His goal: to get revenge on a mysterious person who wronged him in the past.



Kazekage 風影
The shadowy leader of Sunagakure (the Village Hidden in the Sand) within the Land of Wind.

Gaara 我愛羅
Mysterious, bloodthirsty Gaara may be the scariest ninja competing in the Chûnin Exams.

Rock Lee ロック・リー
First, Lee seemed weak, only able to perform physical taijutsu. But he's got powerful tricks and unrivaled super speed.

Might Guy マイト・ガイ
The flamboyant Master Guy is Lee's idol…and Kakashi's rival!

Hokage 火影
The leader of Konohagakure. He was retired, but stepped back into the position when the fourth Hokage was killed by the nine-tailed fox spirit.

Kakashi カカシ
Although he doesn't have an especially warm personality, Kakashi is protective of his students.

THE STORY SO FAR...

Twelve years ago, a destructive nine-tailed fox spirit attacked the ninja village of Konohagakure. The *Hokage*, or village champion, defeated the fox by sealing its soul into the body of a baby boy. Now that boy, Uzumaki Naruto, has grown up to become a ninja-in-training, learning the art of *ninjutsu* with his teammates Sakura and Sasuke.

During the Second Chûnin Exam, in the Forest of Death, Naruto and the others were attacked by the mysterious shinobi Orochimaru, who left a curse mark on Sasuke and vanished…

Now it's the Chûnin Exam finals! But Sasuke is missing! To prevent Sasuke from losing to Gaara by forfeit, the next two scheduled matches were moved up. Things went downhill from there: Kankuro withdrew from his match against Shino to reserve his secret moves for the coming coup. Shikamaru almost beat Temari, but called it quits at the last minute. But now, at last, it's the fight you've all been waiting for…!

NARUTO

VOL. 13
THE CHÛNIN
EXAM, CONCLUDED...!!

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Number 109:

VICTOR, TEMARI!!

DOES HE HAVE ANY WILL TO FIGHT...?
SHEESH...
I REALLY DON'T KNOW... IT'S A MYSTERY.

ARGH! WHAT A WASTE. WHY...? HE COULD HAVE BECOME A CHÛNIN!!

SHIKAMARU'S SHIKAMARU.

BECAUSE HE IS THOROUGHLY AWARE OF HIS OWN KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS, HE DOESN'T PANIC OR BECOME HOTHEADED IN THE MIDST OF BATTLE. AND THAT IS HOW, EVEN IF HE FINDS HIMSELF IN THE WORST FIX, HE CAN CALMLY RETREAT.
...YOU COULD SAY THAT IT'S BECAUSE HE HAS THE ABILITY TO COOLLY ANALYZE ANY AND ALL SITUATIONS.
IT'S DISAP-POINTING THAT HE DOESN'T SEEM EAGER TO FIGHT, BUT...

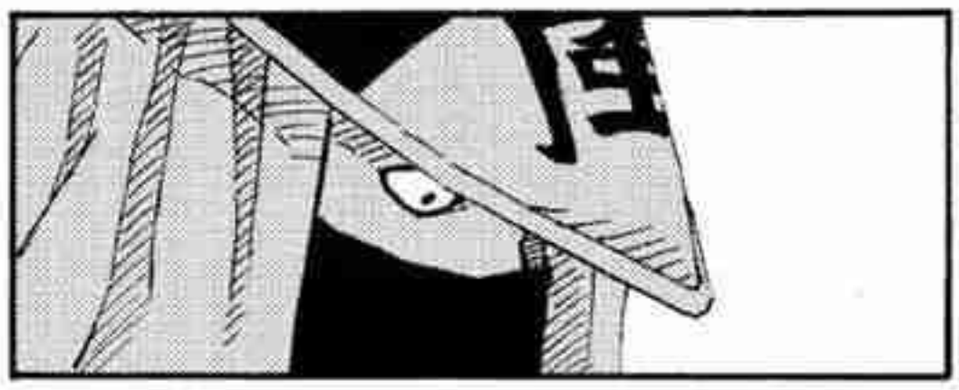
IF THIS HAD BEEN AN ACTUAL MISSION WITH HIM AS A MEMBER OF A BASIC 4-MAN PLATOON, SHIKAMARU'S VICTORY WOULD HAVE BEEN ASSURED WHEN HE CAPTURED TEMARI.
AND YET, THAT KID'S KNOWLEDGE AND STRATEGY ARE ALREADY DEFINITELY BEYOND GENIN LEVEL...
IT'S A CASE OF WINNING THE BATTLE BUT LOSING THE MATCH.

I SUSPECT, IN TERMS OF THE PSYCHOLOGICAL PROFILES DEEMED ESSEN-TIAL IN CHÛNIN...

...SHIKAMARU'S GOT THE MOST IMPORTANT ONE...

KNEAD

...THE DISPOSITION OF A NATURAL LEADER!



THAT REALLY MAKES ME MAD! I'M GONNA GO GIVE HIM A LECTURE HE WON'T EVER FORGET!
WHY'D HE GIVE UP?! IS HE STUPID OR SOME-THING?!
CLAMBER
...ALTHOUGH THEY MAKE PERFECTLY GOOD GENIN!
ALONG THOSE LINES, NEITHER HYUGA NOR NARUTO ARE QUALIFIED...
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
WELL, I STILL THINK SHIKAMARU GAVE UP TOO EARLY TOO, BUT...

LEAP
LECTURING IS DIFFICULT. ONE MUST NOT ANGER THE AUDIENCE.

...TO BECOME A CHÛNIN...
STRETCH
I THINK HE DEFINITELY HAS MORE PROMISE THAN NARUTO...
WHAT DO I THINK...?

SHUT IT, MEGA-DORK!!
STUPIDHEAD!!!
JAB

!
THUMP

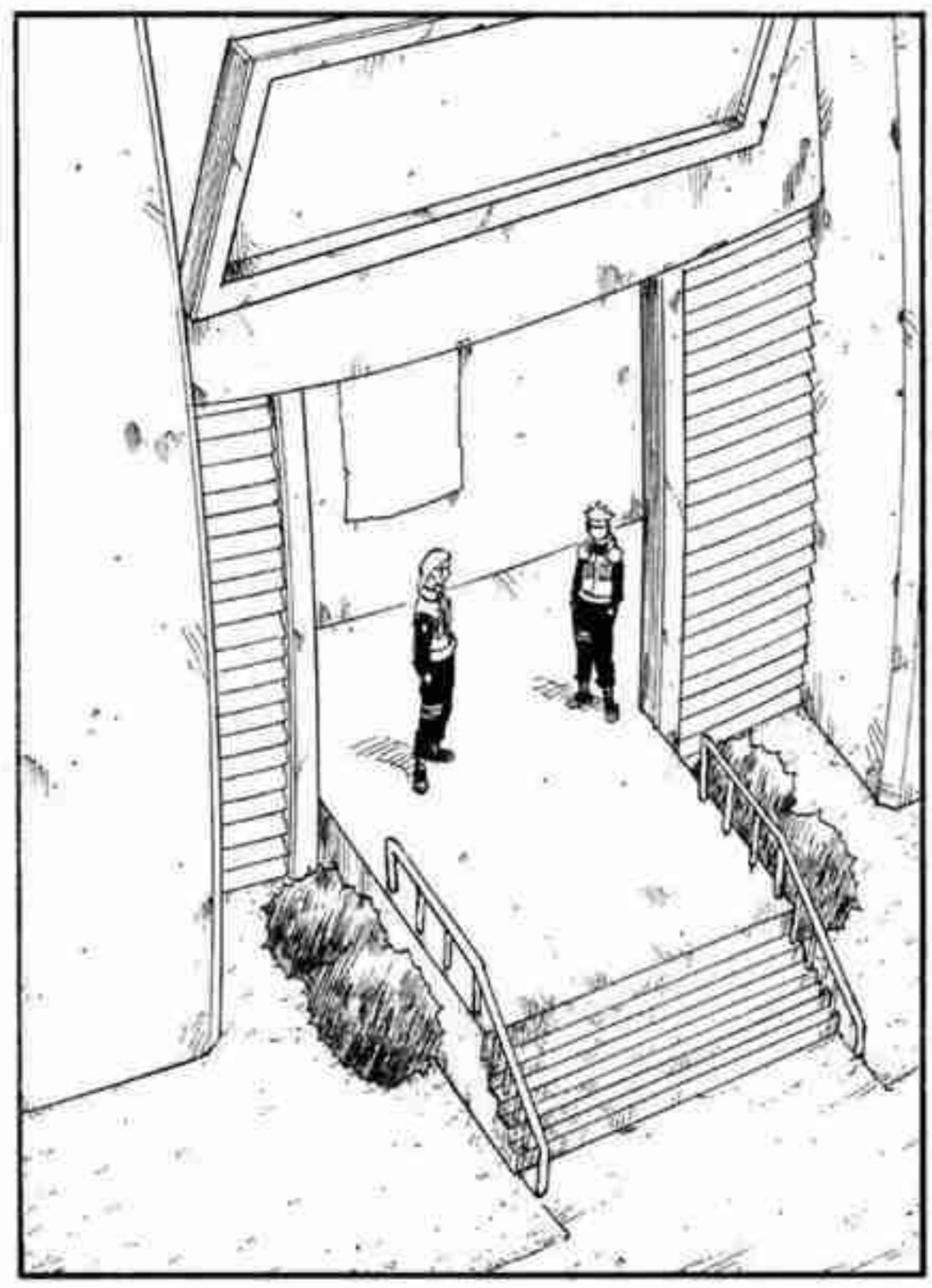
LET'S GO WATCH THE NEXT MATCH, OKAY?

WHY'D YOU GIVE UP?!
AT THIS POINT, WHAT DOES IT MATTER...?

NEXT IS...
OH...!
!

...SASUKE!!

!
CRUNCH



OH! YOU'RE...

...STILL NOT HERE...
HE'S...

GLANCE GLANCE
OH WELL! I GUESS IT'S JUST LIKE HIM--

NOW, PLEASE COME IN!
GOOD TO SEE YOU, SIRS!

SASUKE...

ALL RIGHT! LET'S GO, LEE!
ROGER !!
OH! YES SIR.
HIKE

READ THIS WAY
!
...
WH-WHAT ABOUT NARUTO AND NEJI'S BATTLE...?!
THE ONLY ONE REMAINING IS UCHIHA SASUKE VS. GAARA!
ALMOST ALL OF THE FIRST ROUND BATTLES HAVE CONCLUDED...
!!
GULP
THAT'S THE INTERESTING THING...
HYUGA LOST...

...

NARUTO DEFEATED NEJI...

...
I SEE...

...NARUTO!!
NICE WORK...

LEE, YOU ARE SUCH A GREAT KID...

READ THIS WAY
WHERE'S UCHIHA?!
WHAT'S UP WITH THE NEXT MATCH?!

...

WE'VE FINALLY RECEIVED WORD FROM KAKASHI...
MUTTER
MUTTER

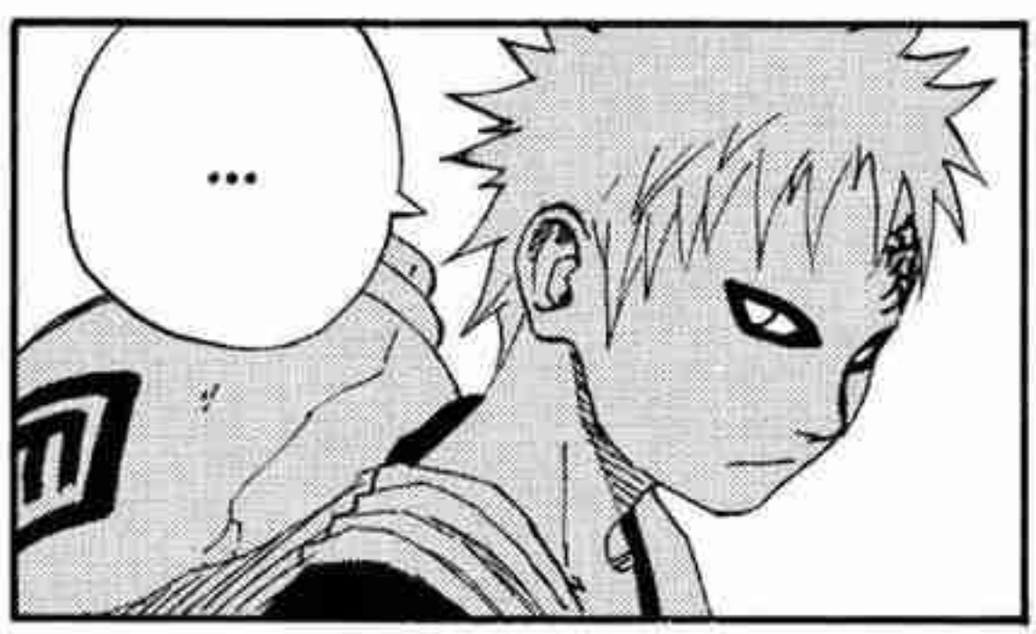
!
SHUF

...

...

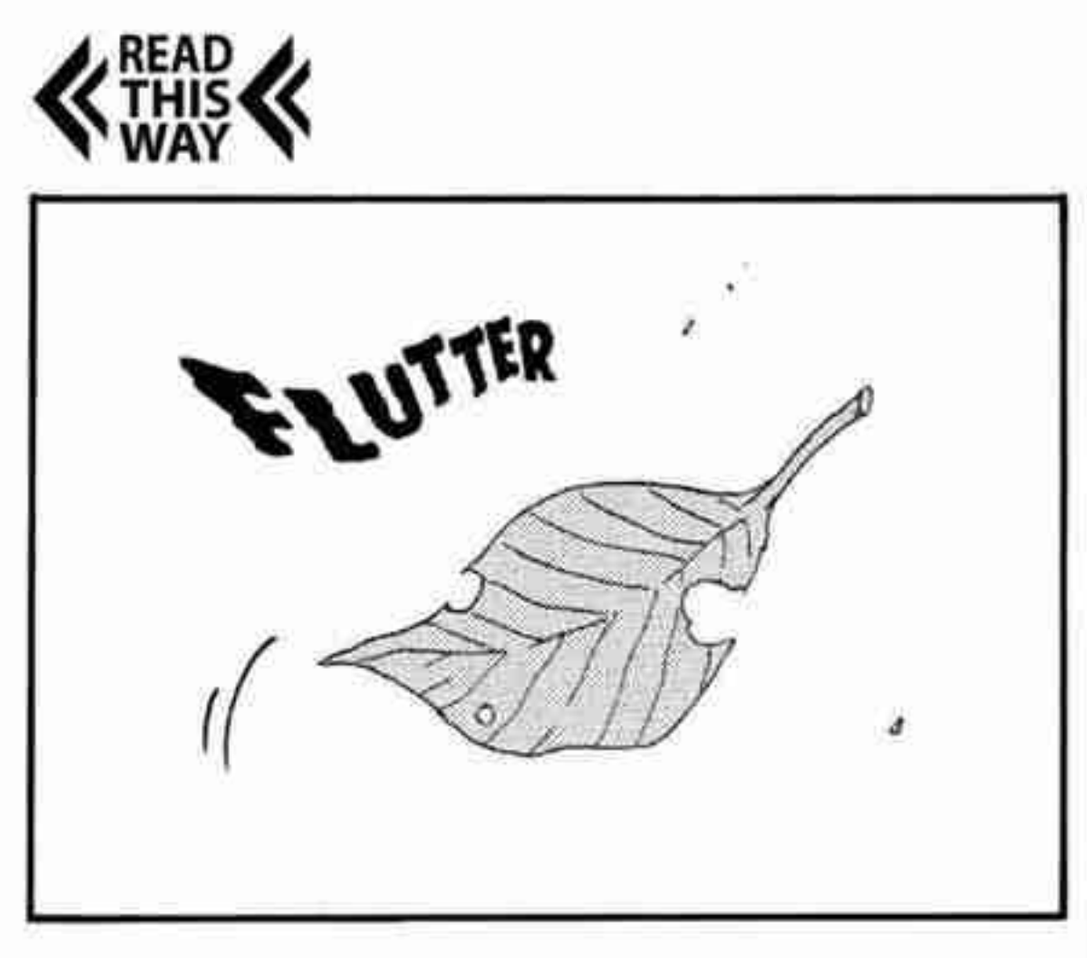
!

BOUND


...

IS HE REALLY GOING TO COME?!
H-HEY, IT'S ALMOST TIME...

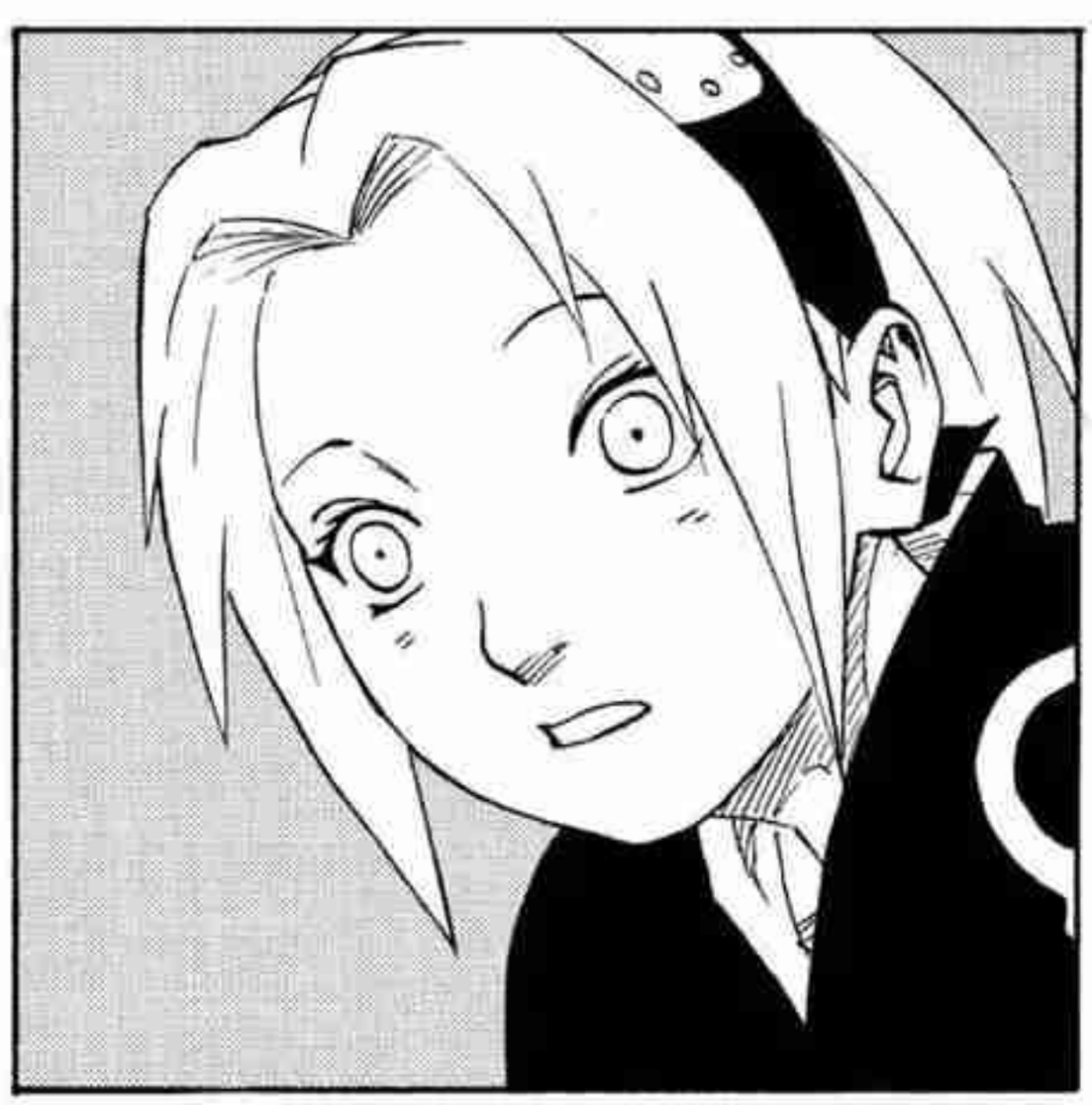
...I'M SURE OF IT!
HE'LL COME...

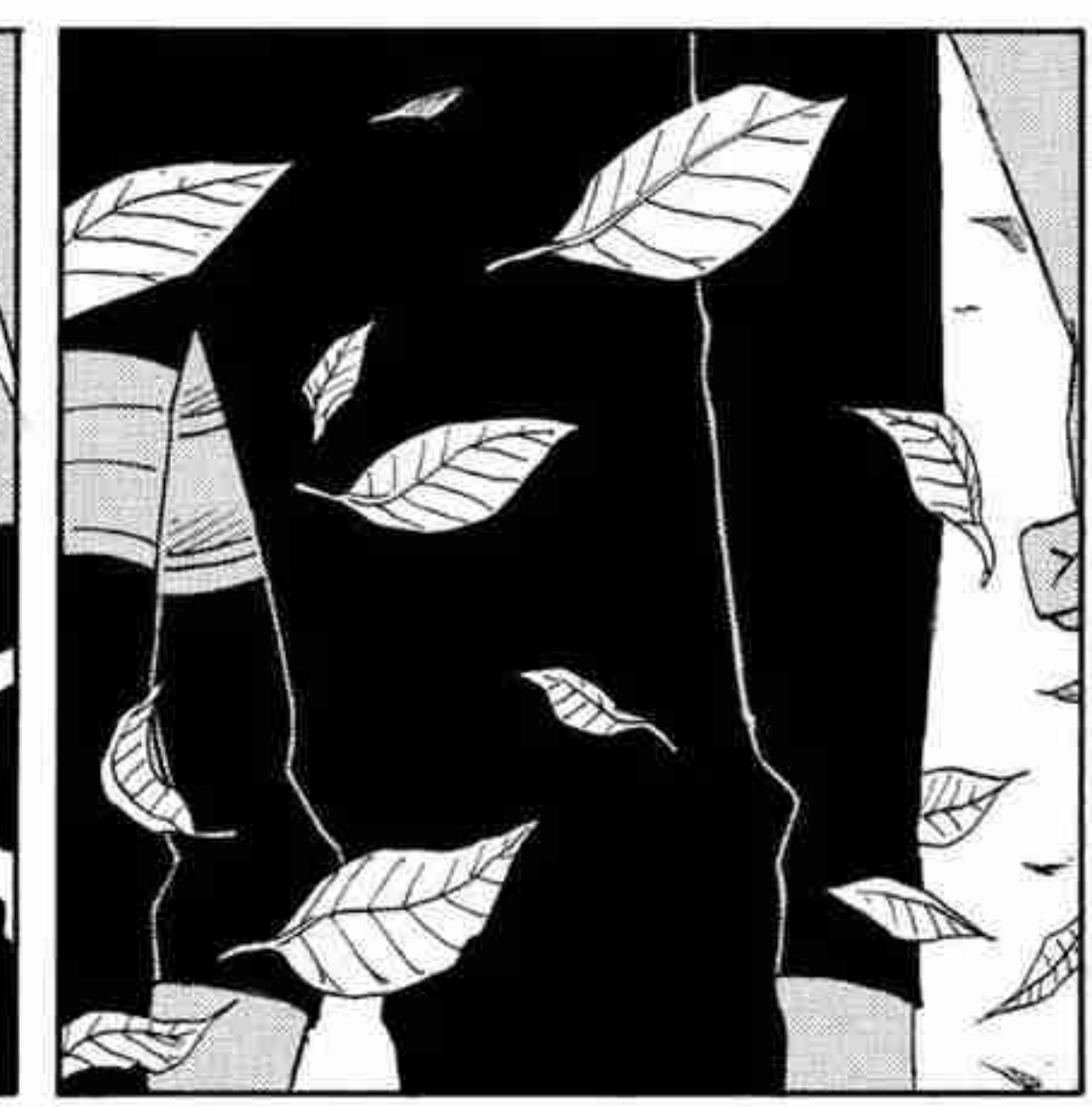

READ THIS WAY

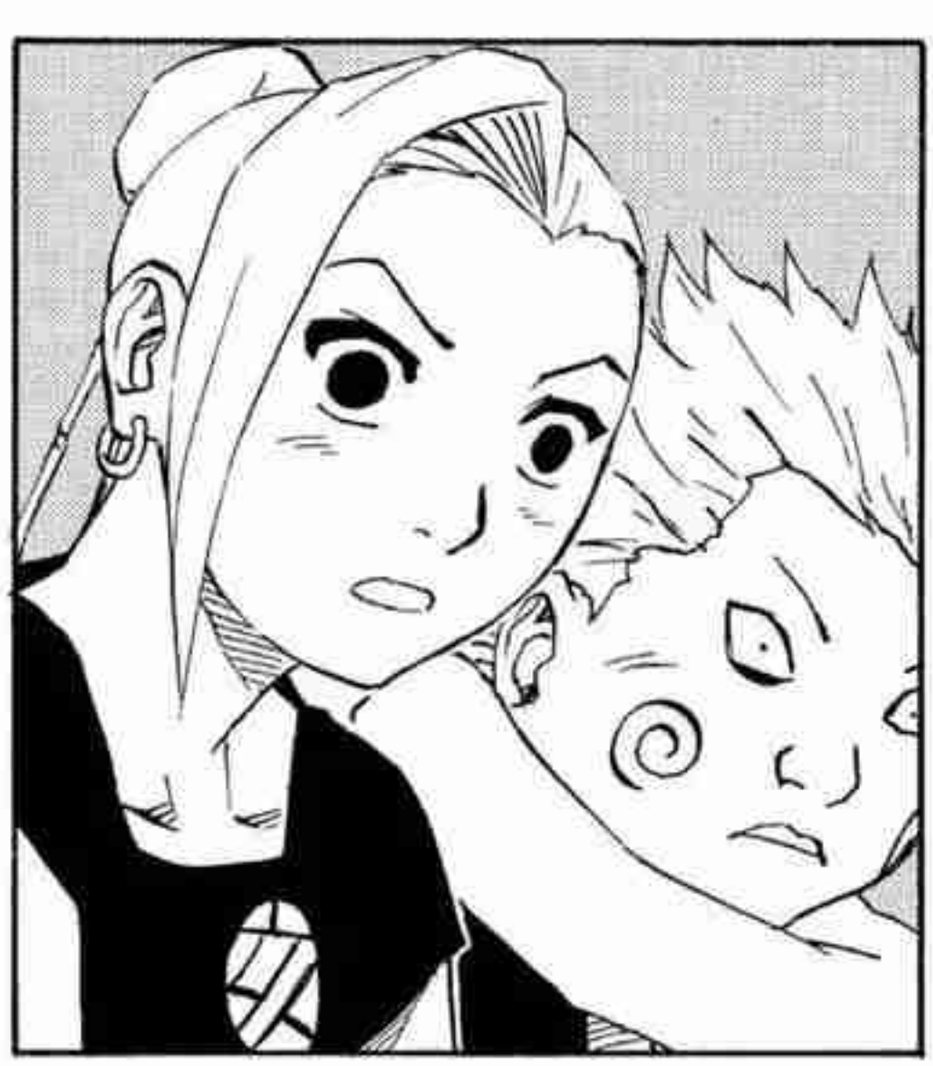
FLUTTER

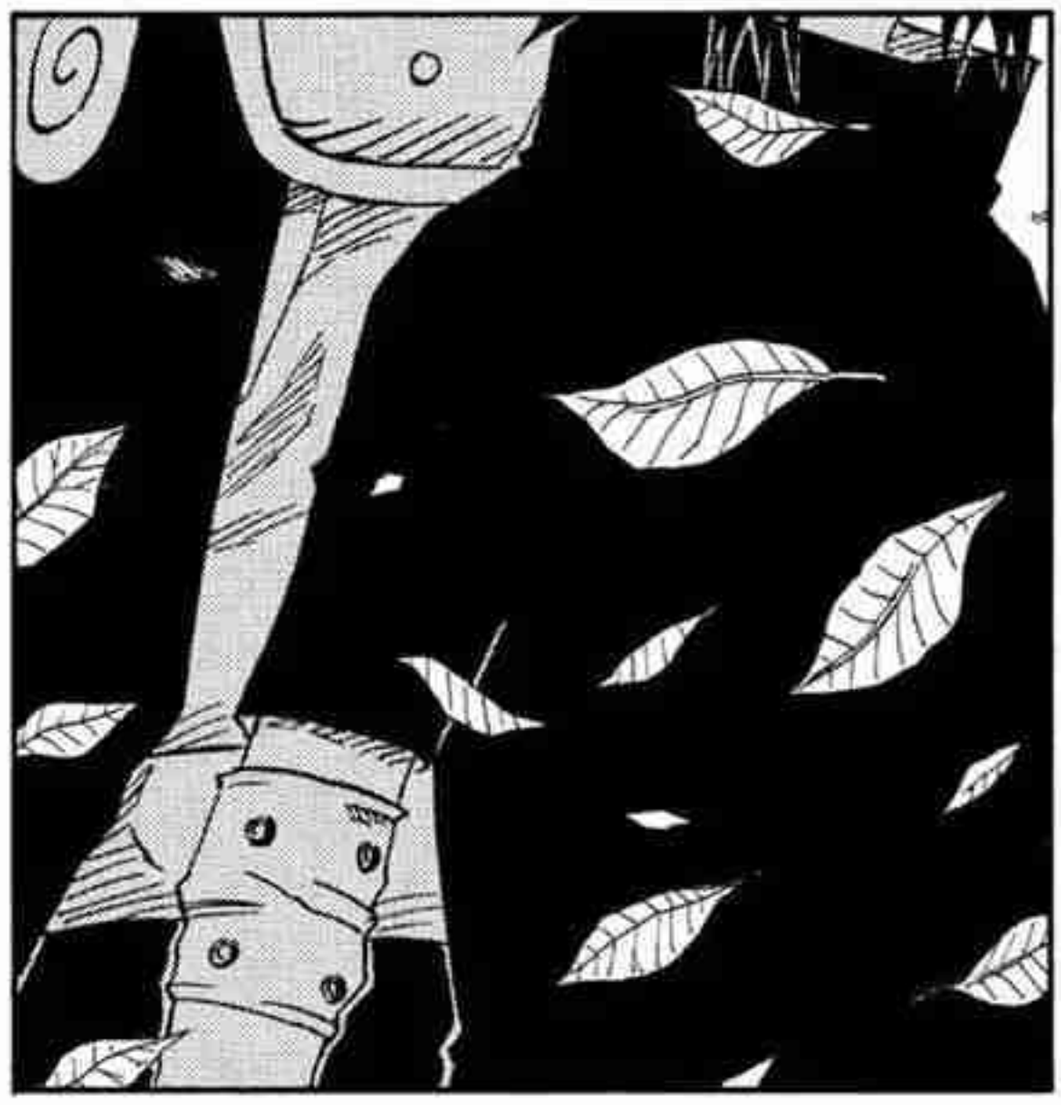
HMM... WHAT IS THAT FOOL DOING? HE'S STILL NOT HERE?!
GLANCE
GLANCE
!

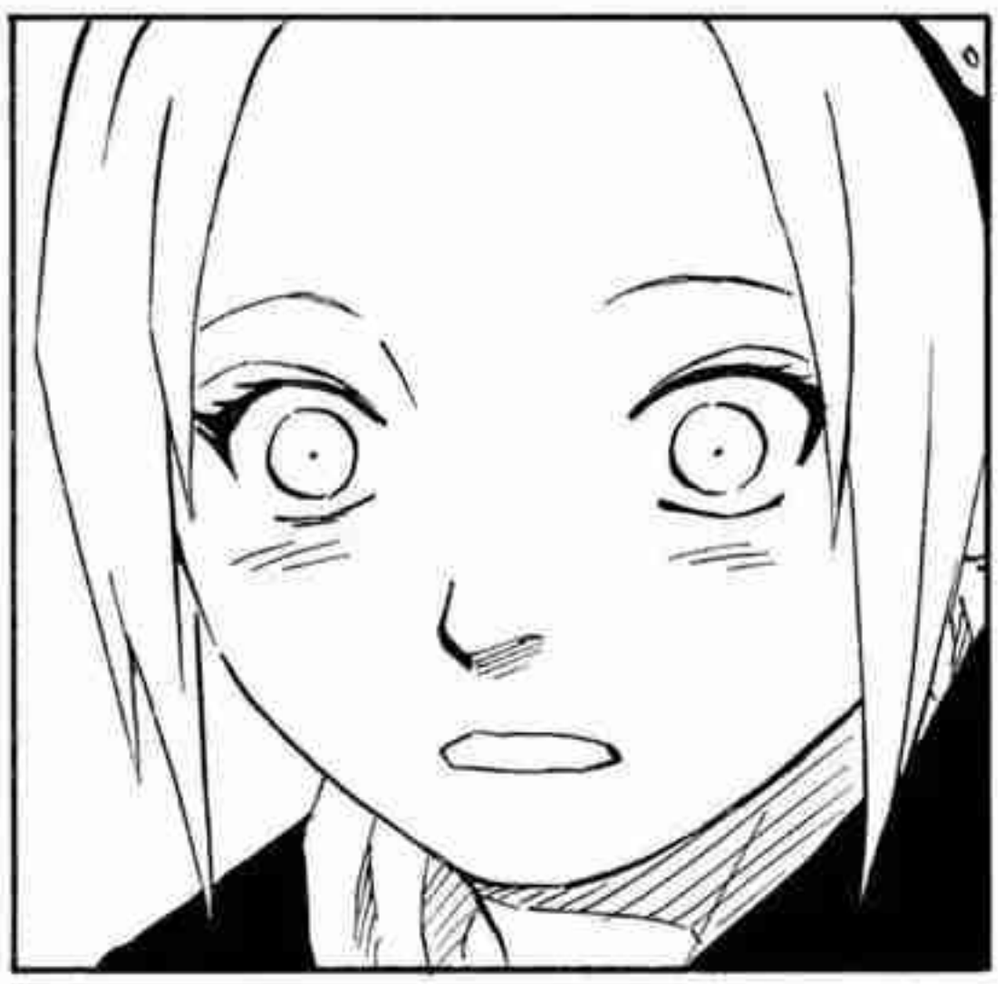
!!
SWIRL

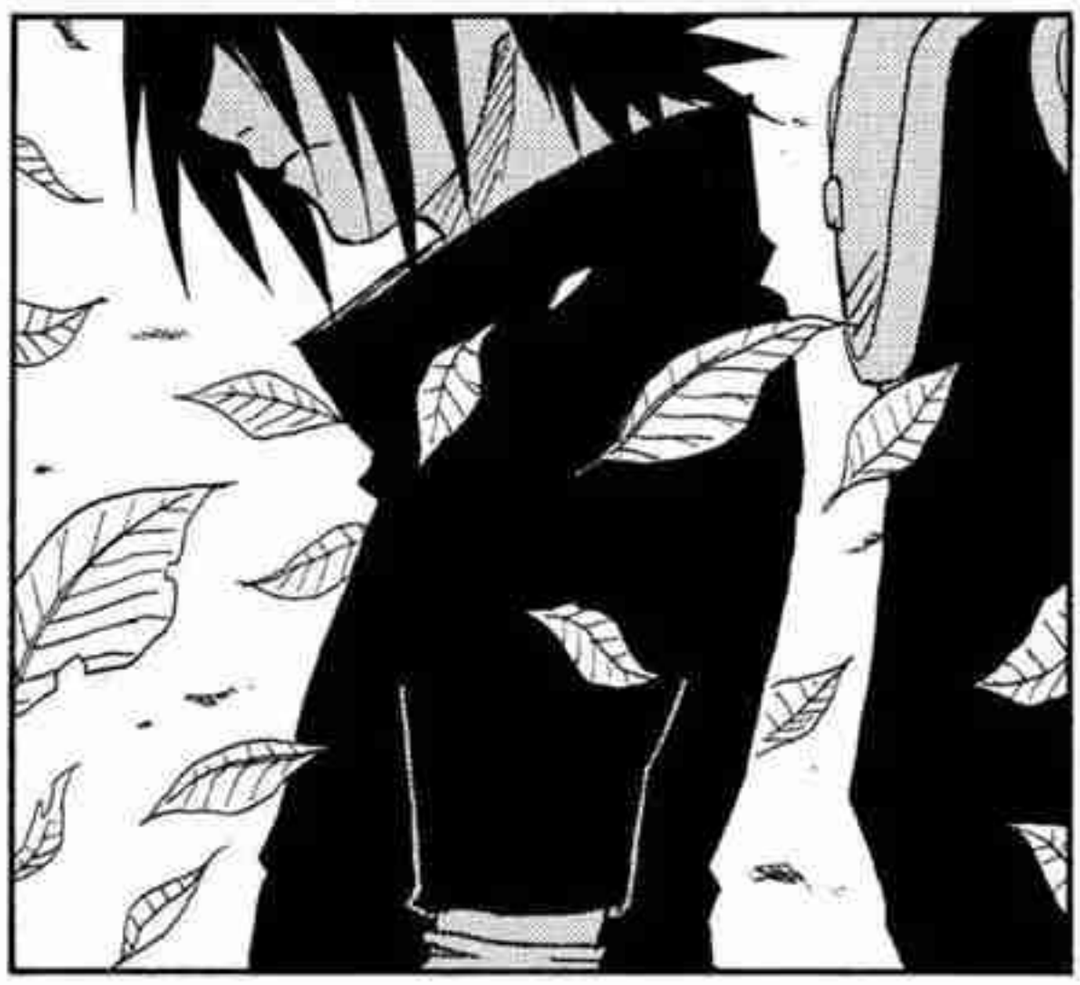








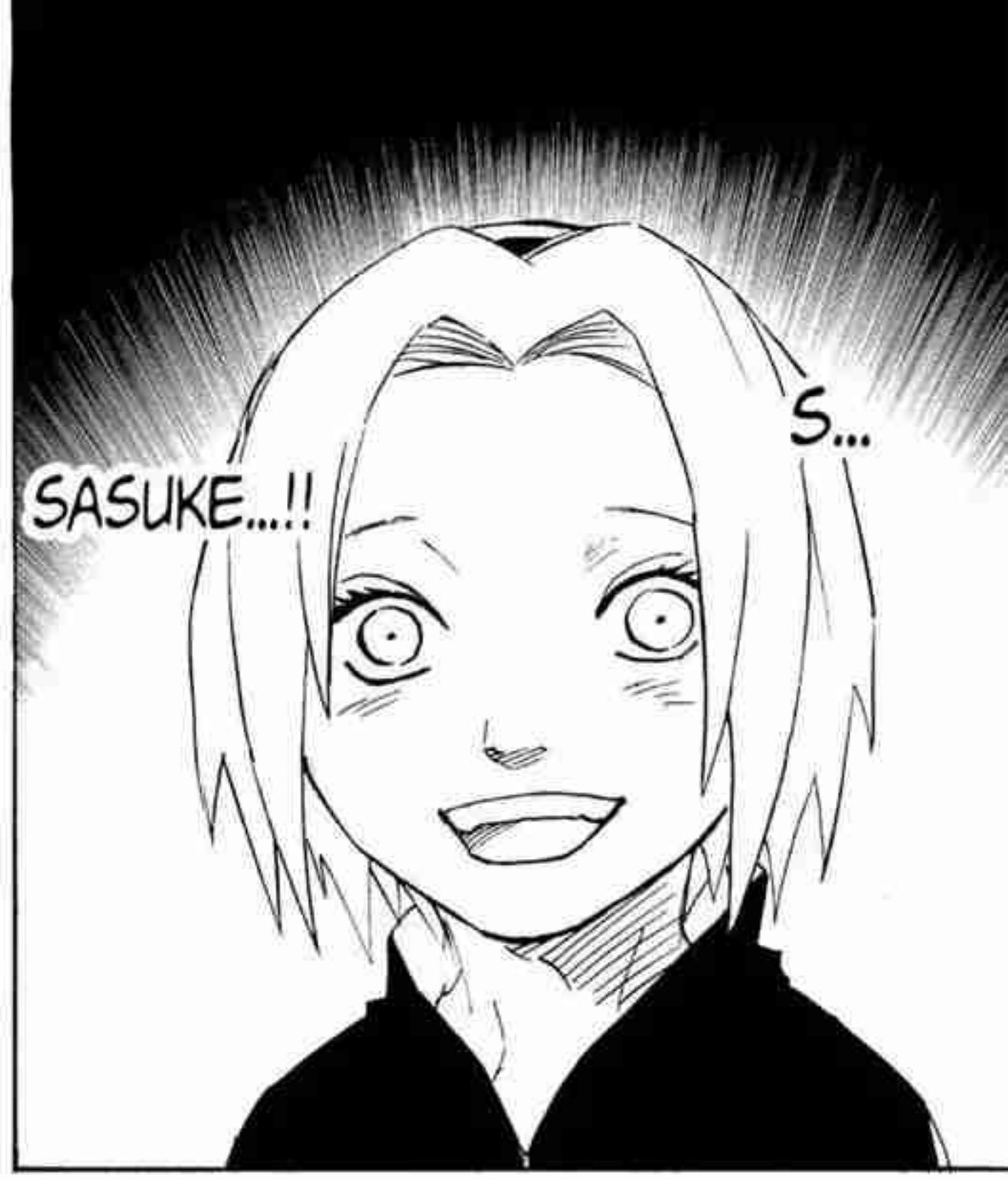




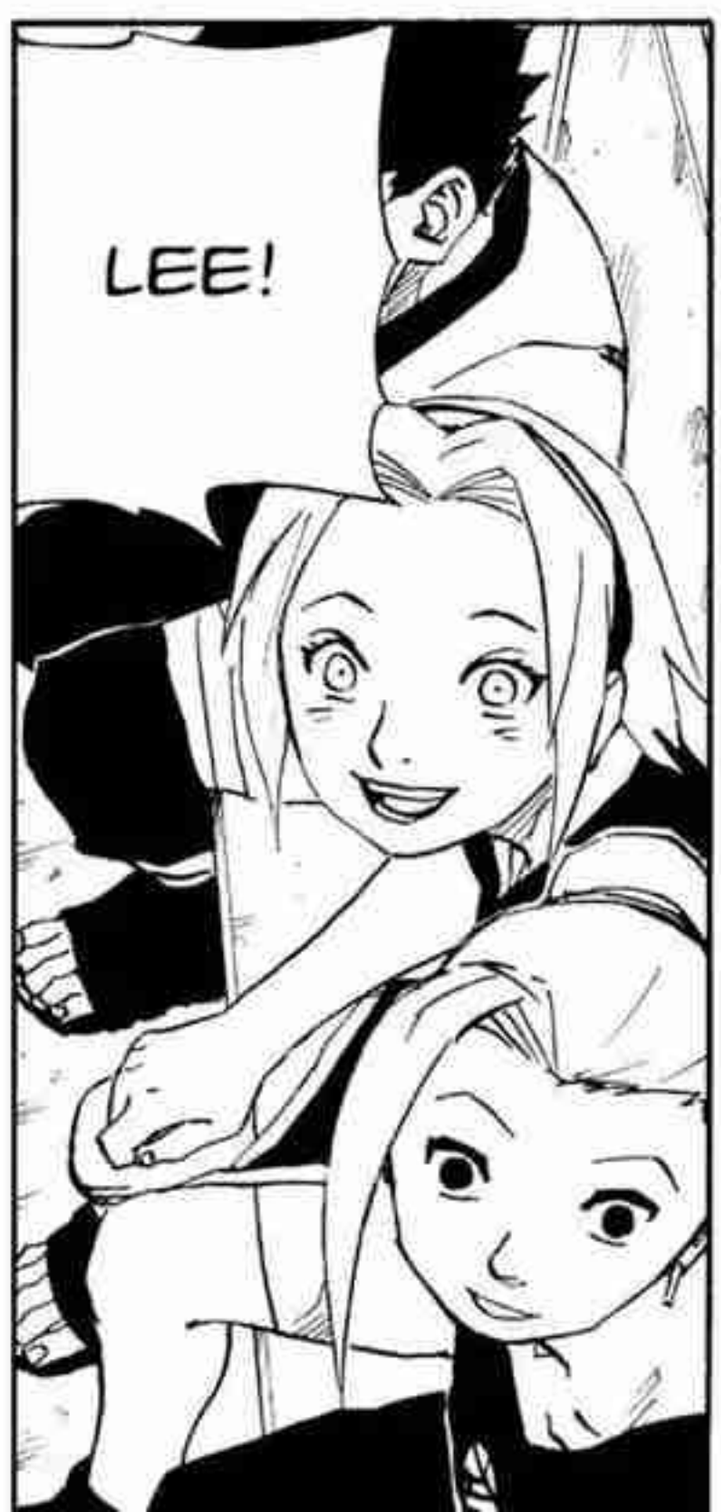
READ THIS WAY
AHH, SO SORRY WE'RE LATE...
YOUR NAME?
SASUKE.
UCHIHA.

HEH... ACTING ALL HIGH AND MIGHTY...
...EVEN THOUGH HE'S INCONVE-NIENCED EVERYONE!

ぎゅ

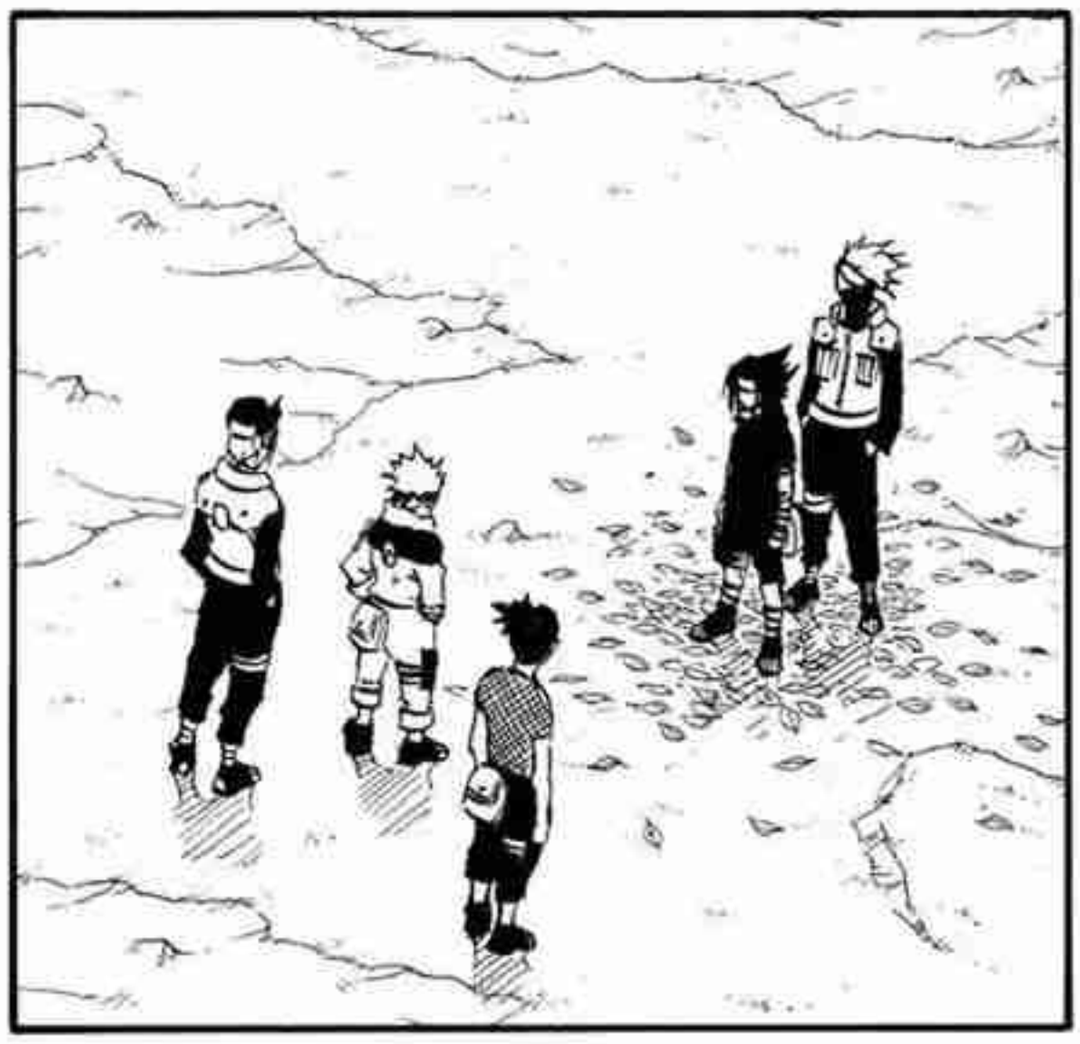

SASUKE...!!
S...

ISN'T THAT...
HEY...


LEE!

!!
IT'S SASUKE, ALL RIGHT!

I WAS WONDERING IF YOU GOT COLD FEET ABOUT FIGHTING ME!
HEY! YOU'RE REAL LATE, HUH?!



...YOU BIG DORK...
HEH... CHILL OUT...

SHEESH... YEAH, RIGHT.
AND WHO WAS THE ONE INSISTING HE WAS GOING TO SHOW UP?!

GULP

HE CAME.
SEE...

THE WORLD OF KISHIMOTO MASASHI
MY PERSONAL HISTORY, PART 16

IN HIGH SCHOOL I WAS DRAWING MANGA ALL THE TIME, AND EVEN THOUGH I WAS IN THE PROGRESSIVE TRACK, MY HOMEROOM TEACHER TOLD ME I WOULDN'T GET INTO ANY COLLEGE BASED ON MY GRADES IN THE STANDARD SUBJECTS. "..." "...HEH..." "SO WHAT!!" I DIDN'T PANIC! I'D ALREADY THOUGHT IT OUT AND PLANNED AHEAD FOR THAT! AND WHAT WAS IT THAT I HAD IN MIND...?

SINCE I WAS IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, FOR SOME UNKNOWN REASON, MY GRADES IN ART HAVE ALWAYS BEEN EXCELLENT! ..."THAT'S RIGHT! IF IT'S AN ART COLLEGE, I THINK I CAN GET IN!" THIS COMPLETELY GROUNDLESS CONFIDENCE HAD SECRETLY ALLAYED MY FEARS!

(P.S. BECAUSE IT WAS A PROGRESSIVE TRACK, THERE WERE NO ART CLASSES AT ALL!) MOST ART SCHOOLS ONLY TEST ART ON THEIR APPLICATION EXAMS.

IN ANY CASE, TO BE HONEST, DESPITE THE FACT THAT I WAS CONSTANTLY DRAWING IN HIGH SCHOOL, I WAS PAINFULLY AWARE THAT I DIDN'T HAVE GOOD SKETCHING SKILLS. SO I SAID TO MYSELF, "I'LL HONE MY SKETCHING ABILITY IN COLLEGE!" AND PRACTICED SKETCHING THE SAMPLE PLASTER MODELS BEFORE HEADING OFF TO THE ACTUAL EXAM!

WHILE DEEPLY REALIZING THAT HUMANS ARE CREATURES OF CONVENIENCE WHO ONLY OFFER PRAYERS TO THE GODS WHEN FACED WITH CRISES, I WAITED SEVERAL WEEKS FOR THE RESULTS!
A-AND THEN... THE GODS HADN'T YET ABANDONED ME...

I PASSED!!
"YES!! NOW I CAN DRAW MANGA ALL I WANT!! YEAH!!"

SO AMIDST HIGH STRESS, I WENT OFF TO ART SCHOOL!

AND THEN, BRIEFLY REFLECTING ON MY HIGH SCHOOL YEARS, I WONDERED THUSLY: FOR THREE YEARS, I HAD DESPERATELY STRUGGLED THROUGH MATH, ENGLISH, GRAMMAR, CHEMISTRY, AND HISTORY... TO WHAT END?

Number 110: At Long Last...!!

FROM THAT LOUDMOUTH ATTITUDE OF YOURS...

...I TAKE IT YOU WON YOUR FIRST ROUND BATTLE?

...SASUKE LOST BY FORFEIT?

...DON'T TELL ME...
WELL, UH, FLASHY ENTRANCE NOTWITH-STANDING...

SEE... I TOLD YOU WE'D BE LATE, SASUKE.
SHEESH!
MAYBE YOUR TARDINESS IS CONTA-GIOUS?!

...
SO... WHAT'S THE DEAL?

HIS MATCH WASN'T FORFEITED.
SASUKE'S MATCH WAS POSTPONED.
DON'T WORRY, YOU'RE SAFE!

READ
THIS
WAY

OH, GOOD! GOOD!
AH HA HA...

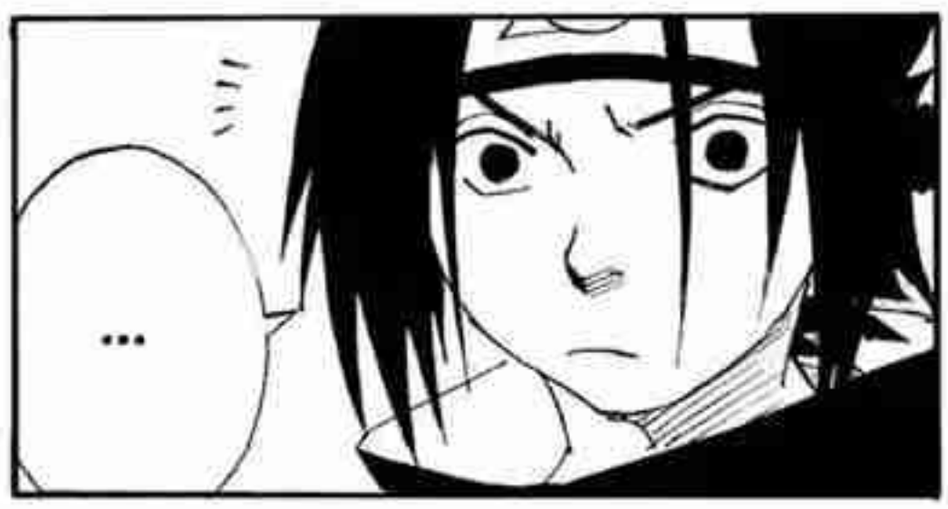
...
GLANCE

愛

YEAH...
...

DON'T YOU DARE LOSE TO A GUY LIKE HIM!

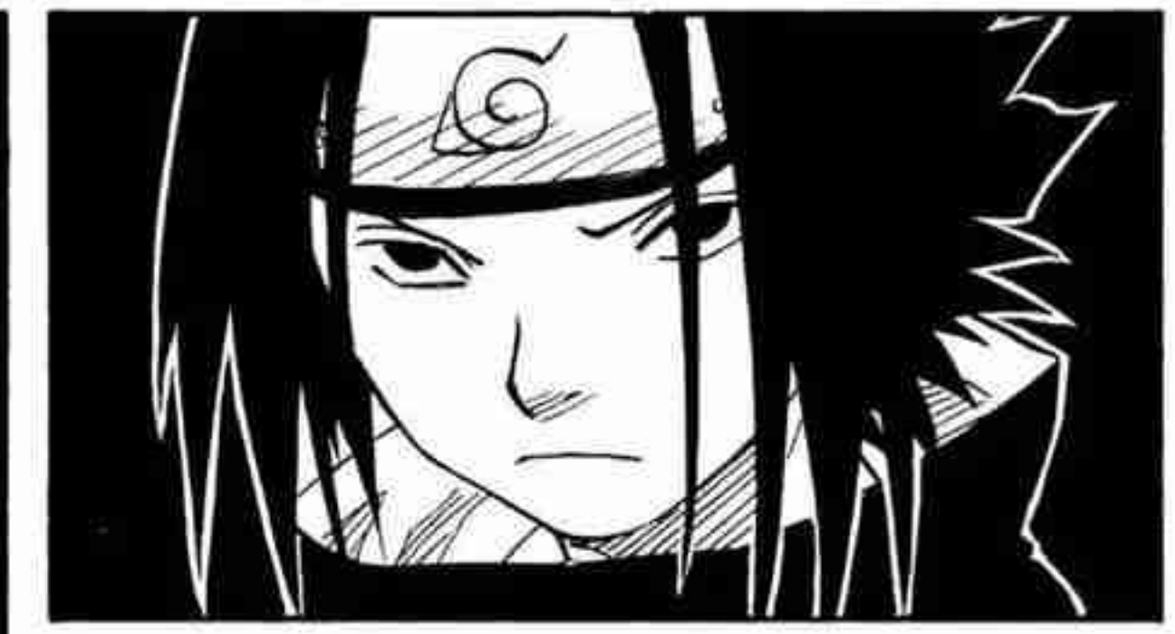
SASUKE!


...

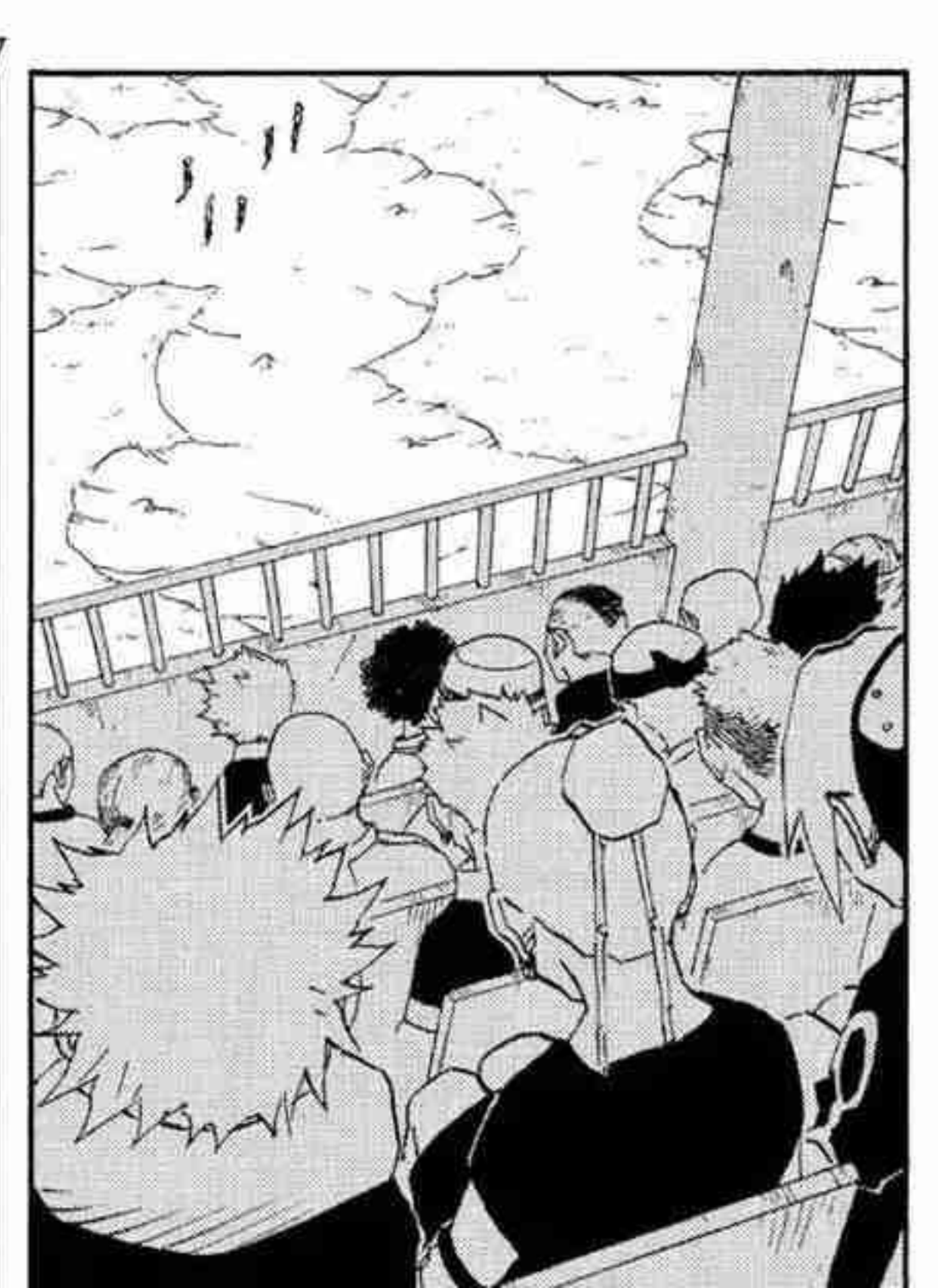
YOU'RE ONE OF THE ONES I WANT TO FIGHT...

...WANT TO FIGHT YOU TOO...!
I...

YEAH...



WHEE! SASUKE!
A FEW MINUTES AGO SHE WAS ALL FOR SHIKAMARU, AND NOW SHE'S ALL FOR SASUKE... POOR SHIKAMARU.



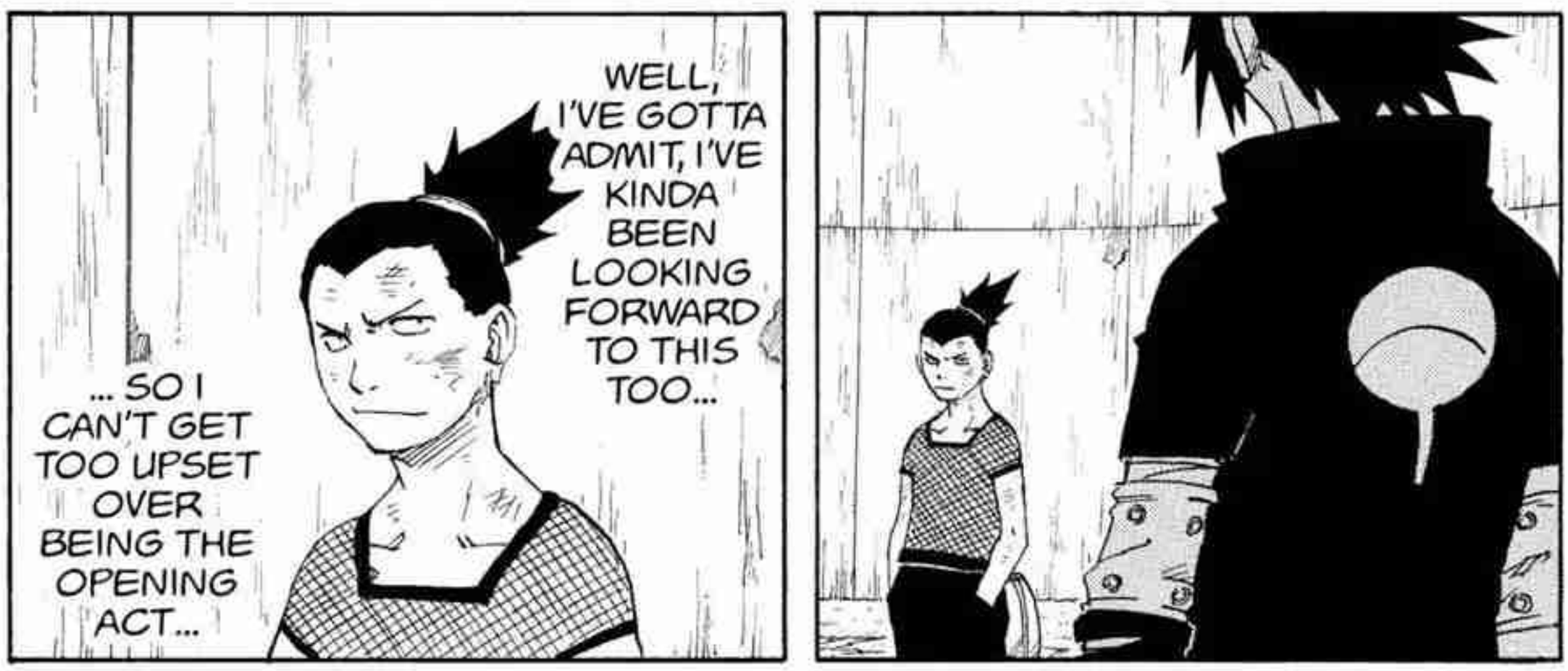
MUTTER

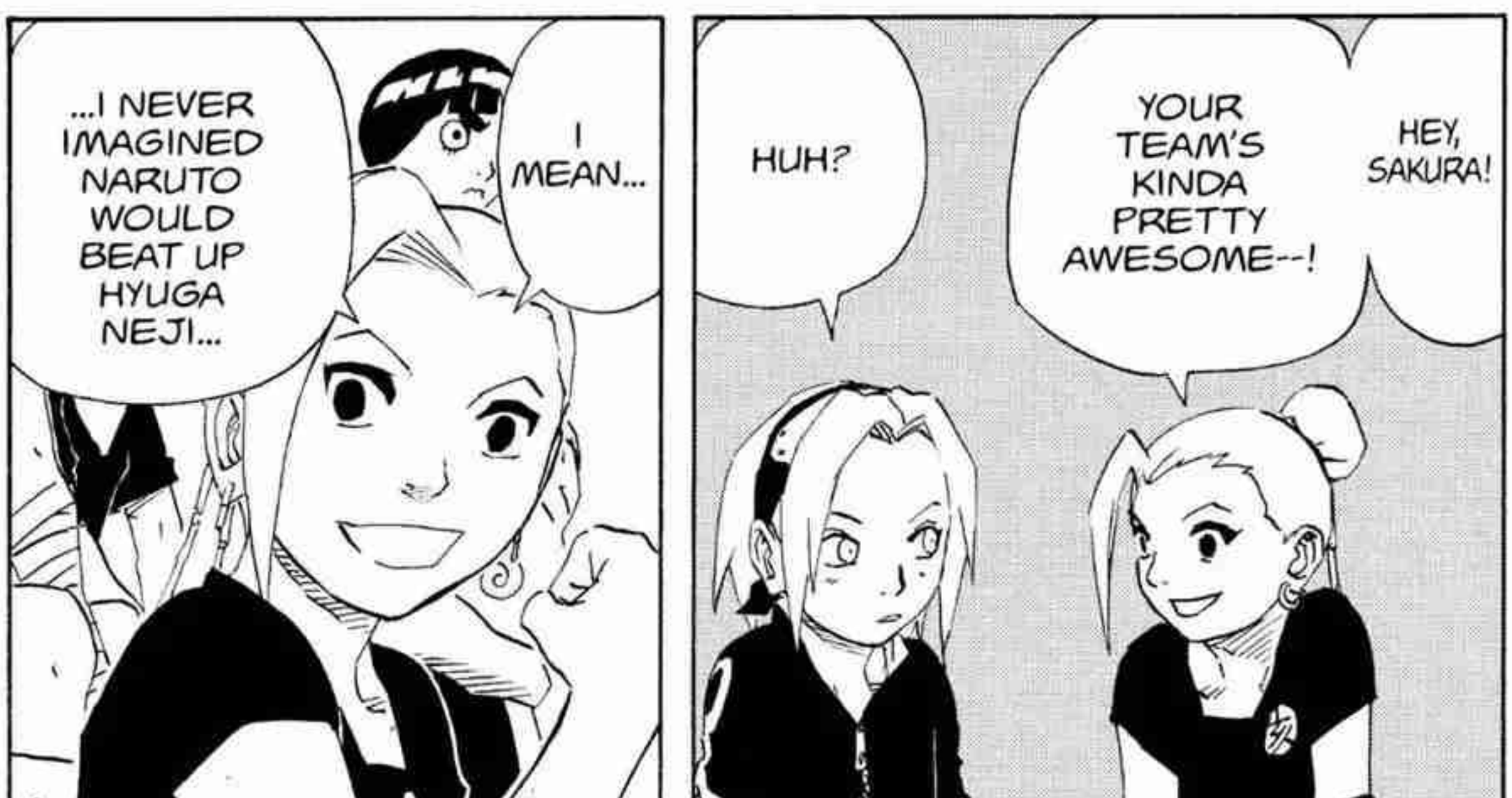
MUTTER

MUTTER

UCHIHA'S MATCH IS STARTING!!

HEY! IS THAT THE LAST OF THE UCHIHA CLAN?!

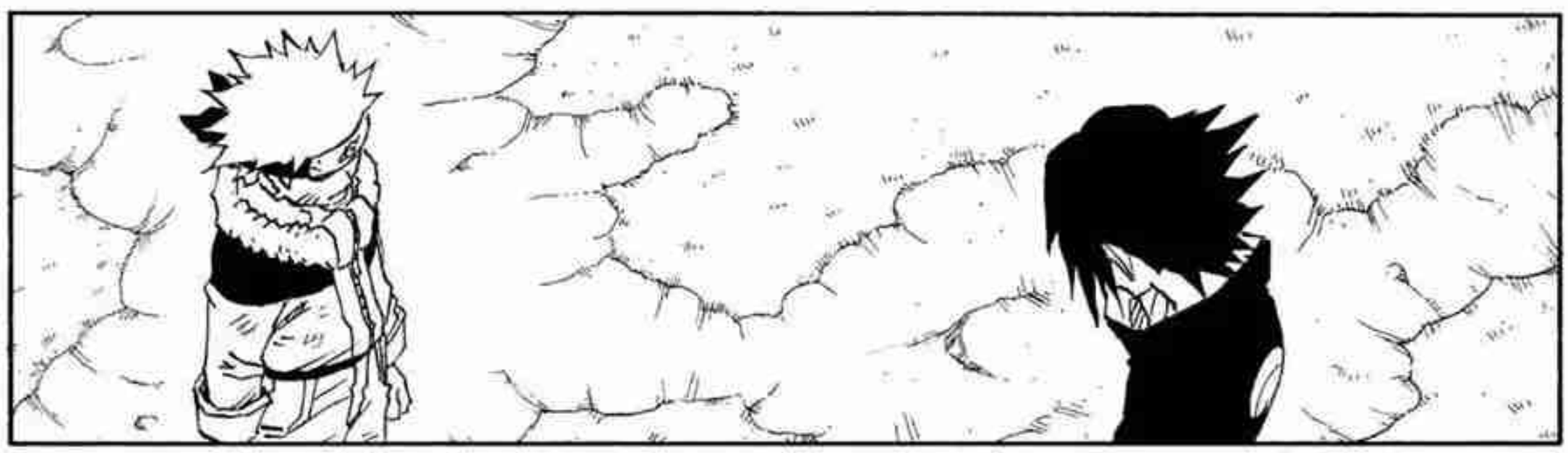




...

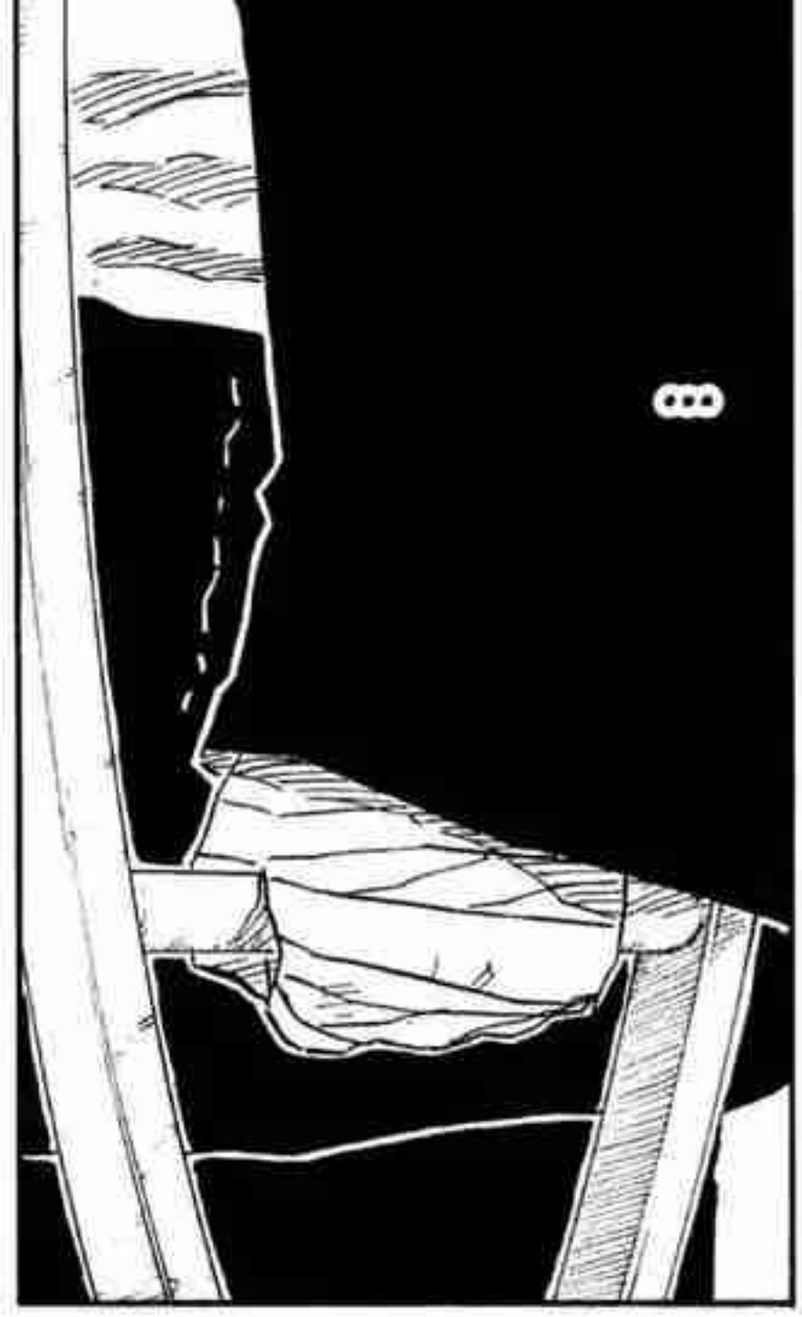
HUH?

...AND SASUKE'S AN UCHIHA ELITE...
...WITH EVERYONE ITCHING TO WATCH HIS MATCH!

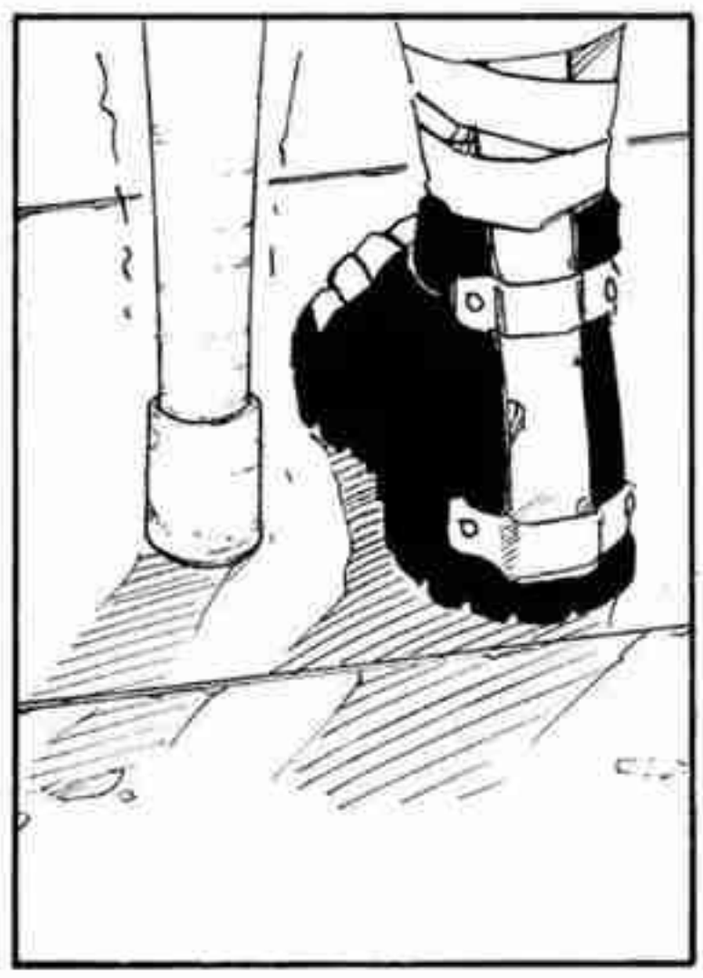


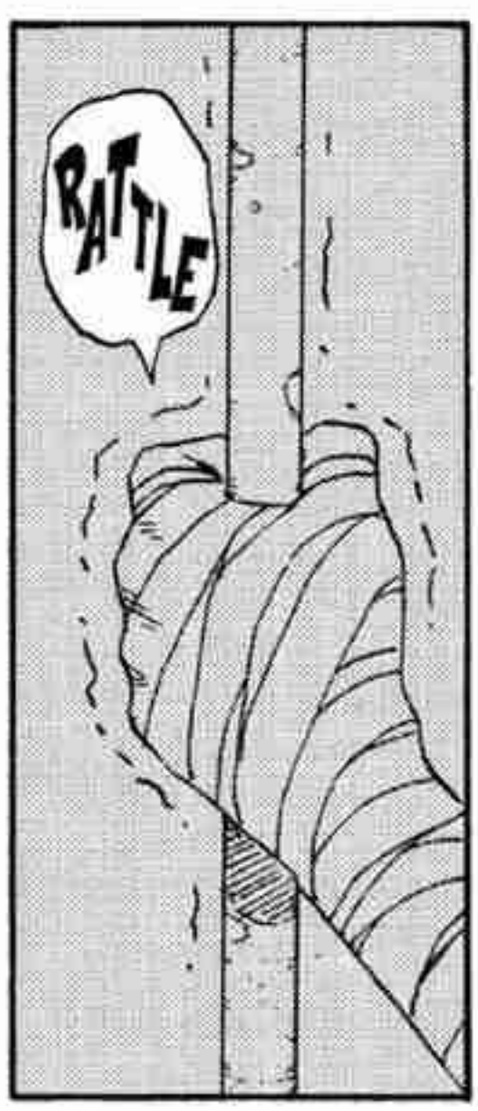
AND NARUTO WON AGAINST NEJI, WHOM I HAVE ALWAYS WANTED TO DEFEAT...
SASUKE IS FIGHTING THAT SAND NINJA GAARA, WHOM I WAS POWERLESS AGAINST...

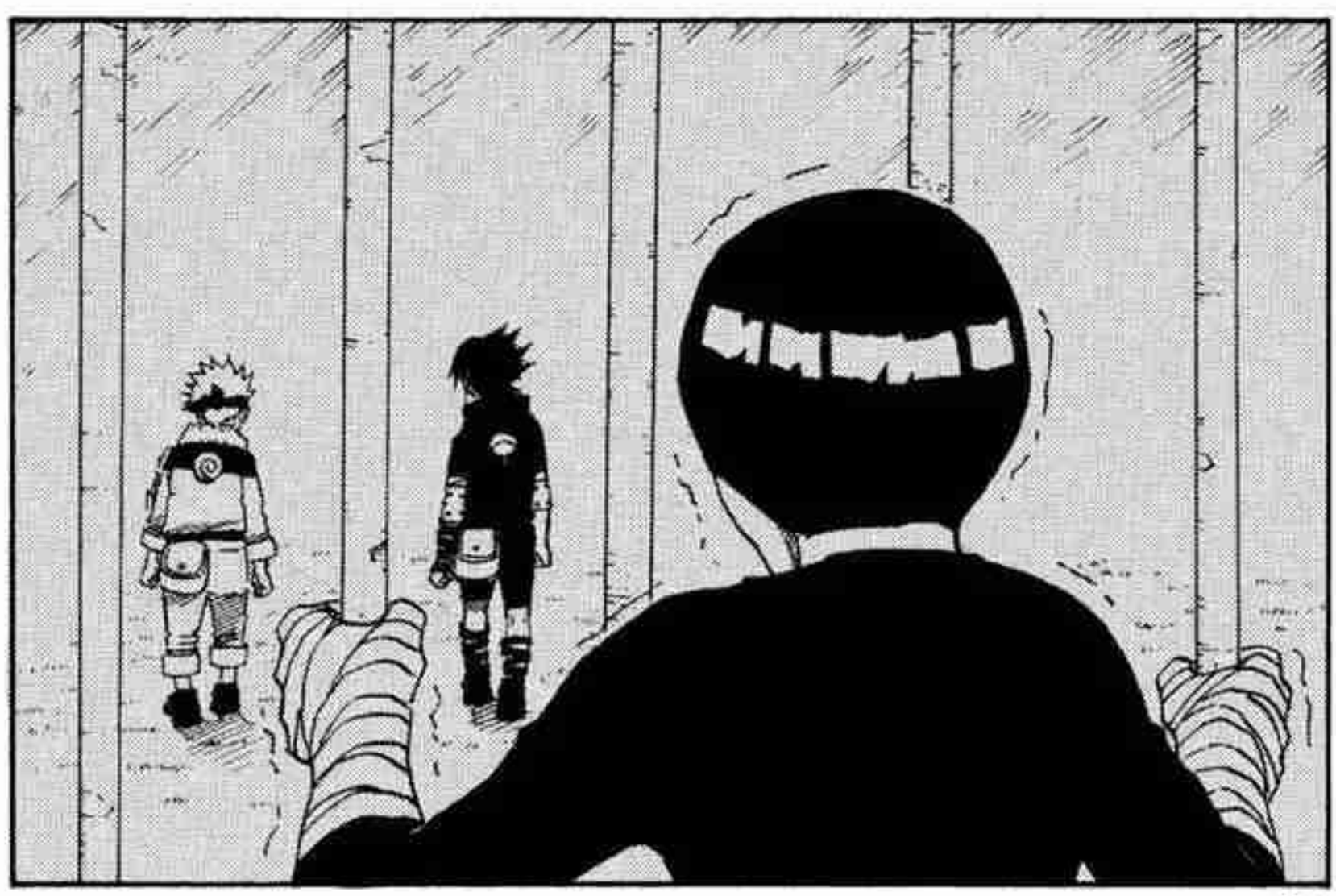
CLENCH
WHY...
SEEP


...

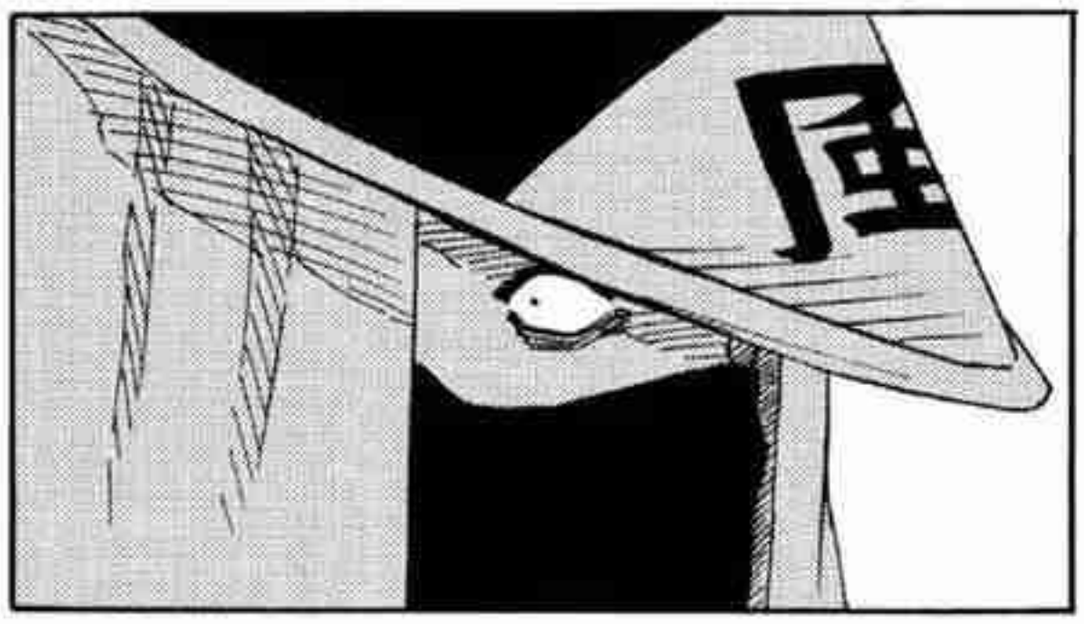
DRIP
WHY AM I SO...




RATTLE

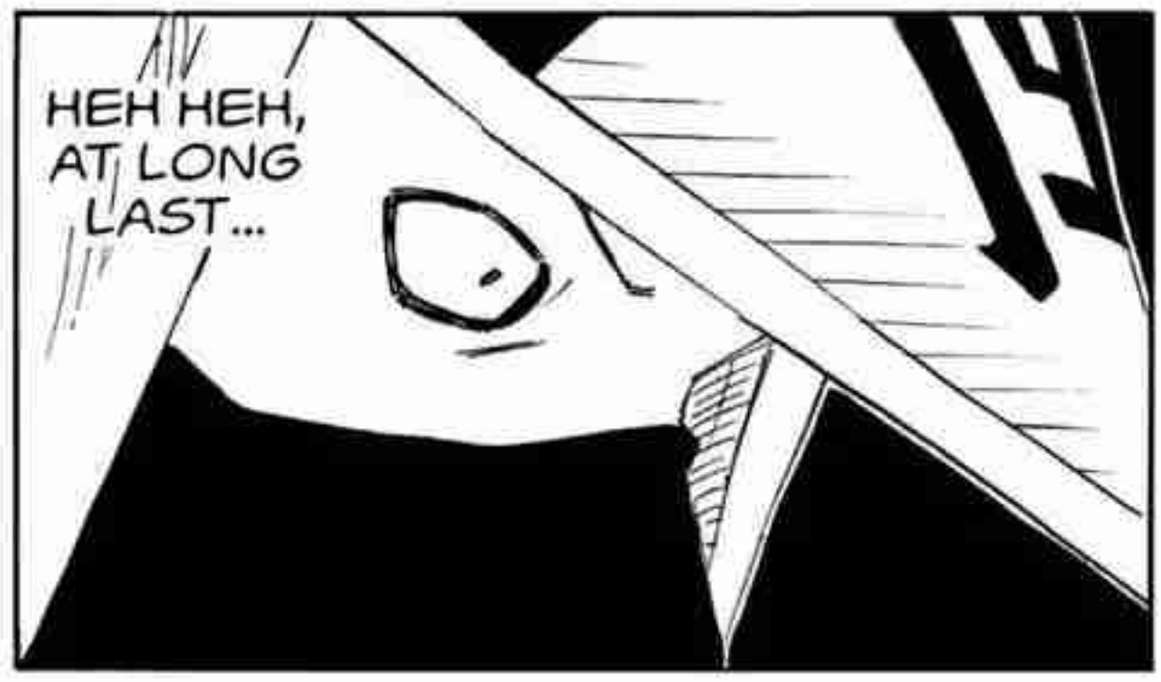


...JEALOUS?!


風

...

火


HEH HEH, AT LONG LAST...

GAARA, COME DOWN.

AND LET'S JUST TAKE THE STAIRS THIS TIME, OKAY?!
TURN
WHAT! ARE YOU STILL HOLDING IT AGAINST ME THAT I SHOVED YOU?!

NARUTO! LET'S GO BACK UPSTAIRS.

ROGER.

ROAR
ROAR

SH-SHOOT... I HAVEN'T SEEN GAARA THIS BAD IN A WHILE...

...H-HEY, GAARA... DON'T FORGET ABOUT THE PLAN, ALL RI--
WHIP

!!
SMACK

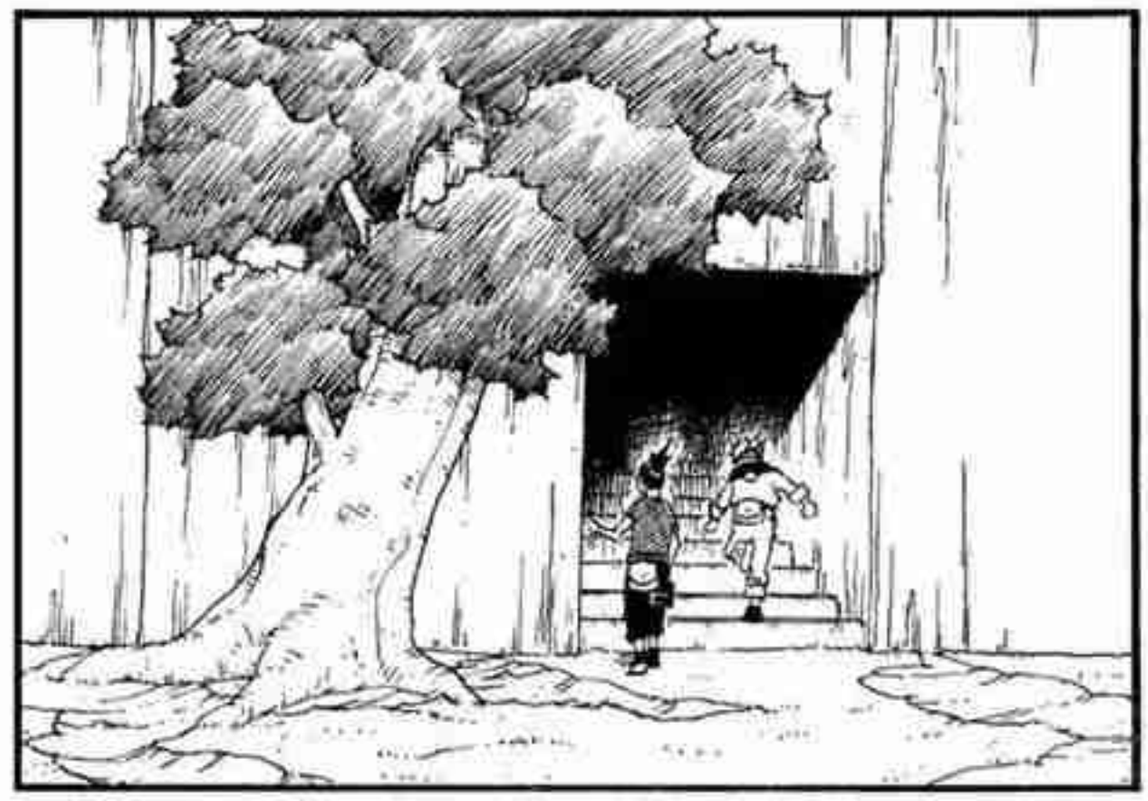
愛

...!

DON'T TALK TO HIM RIGHT NOW...

READ
THIS
WAY

HE'LL KILL YOU!

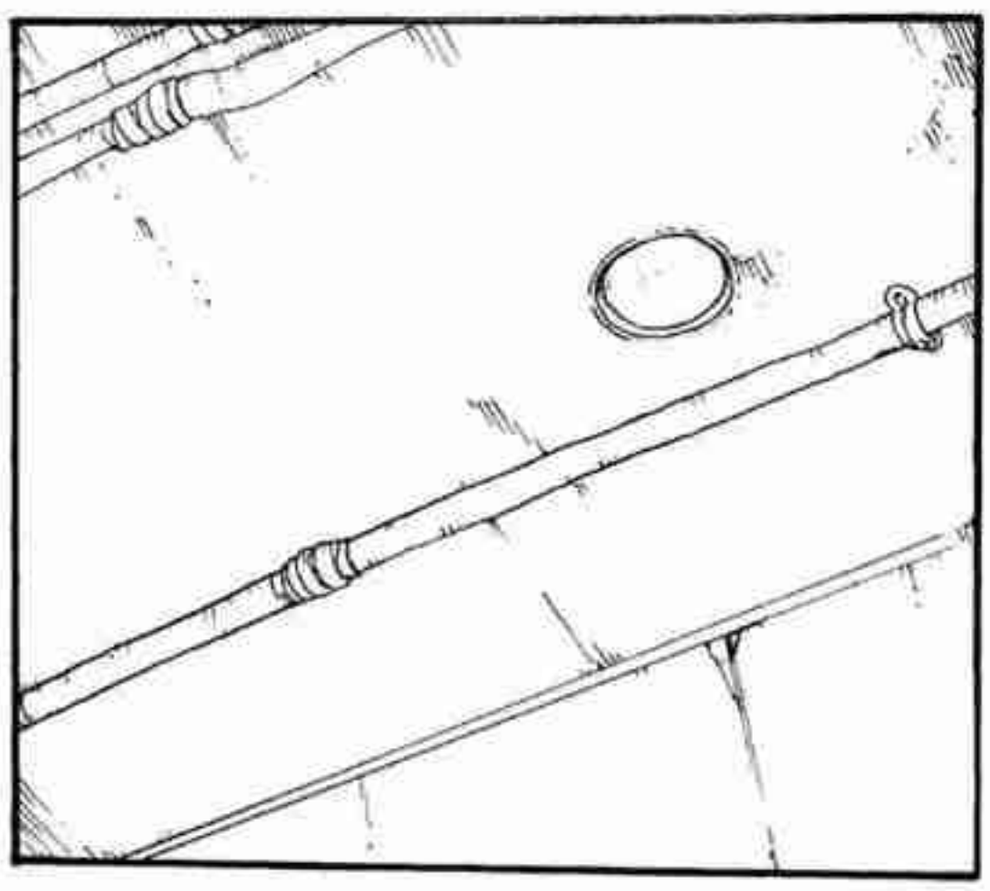


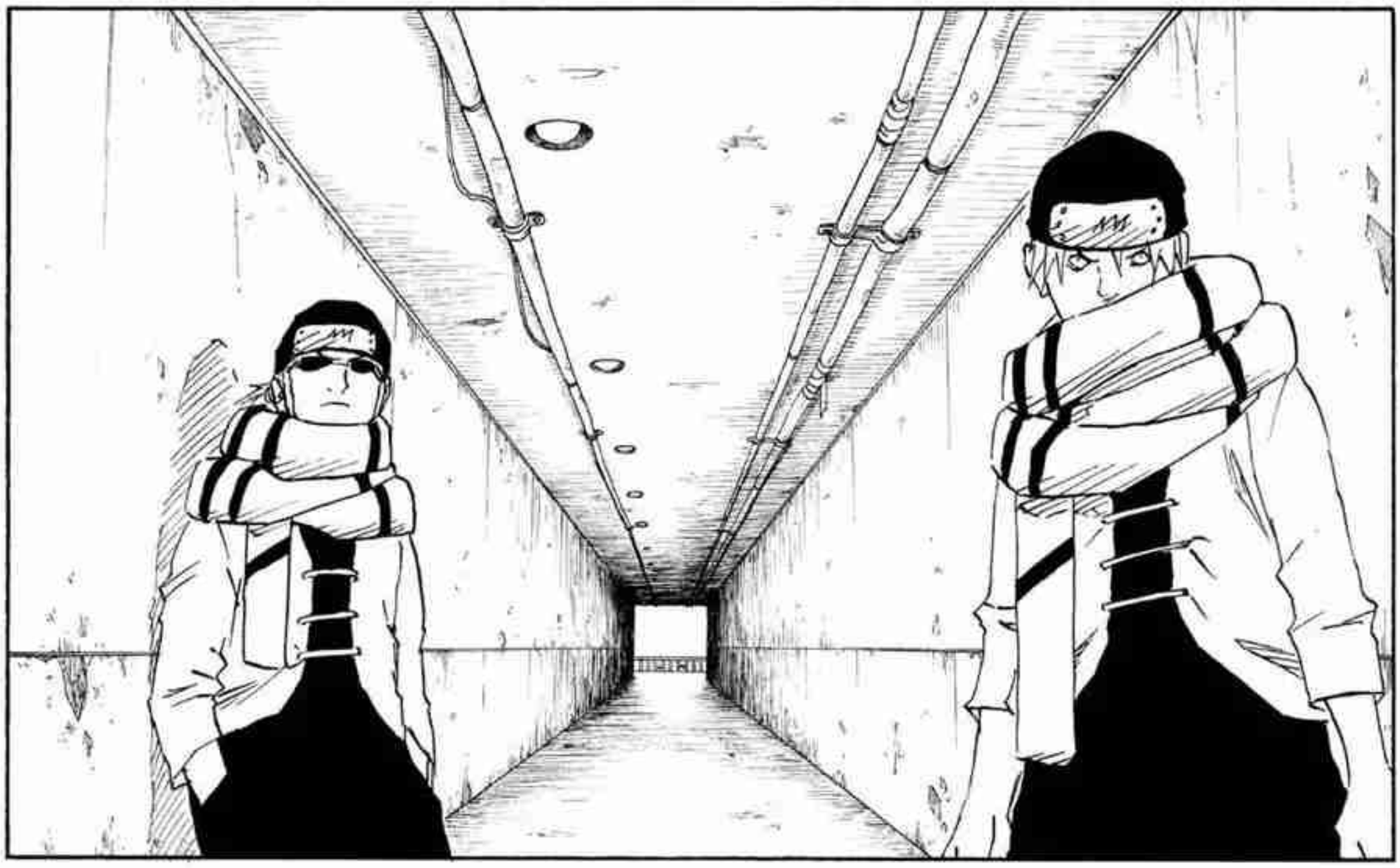
STEP

HEY! LET'S GO.
RISE

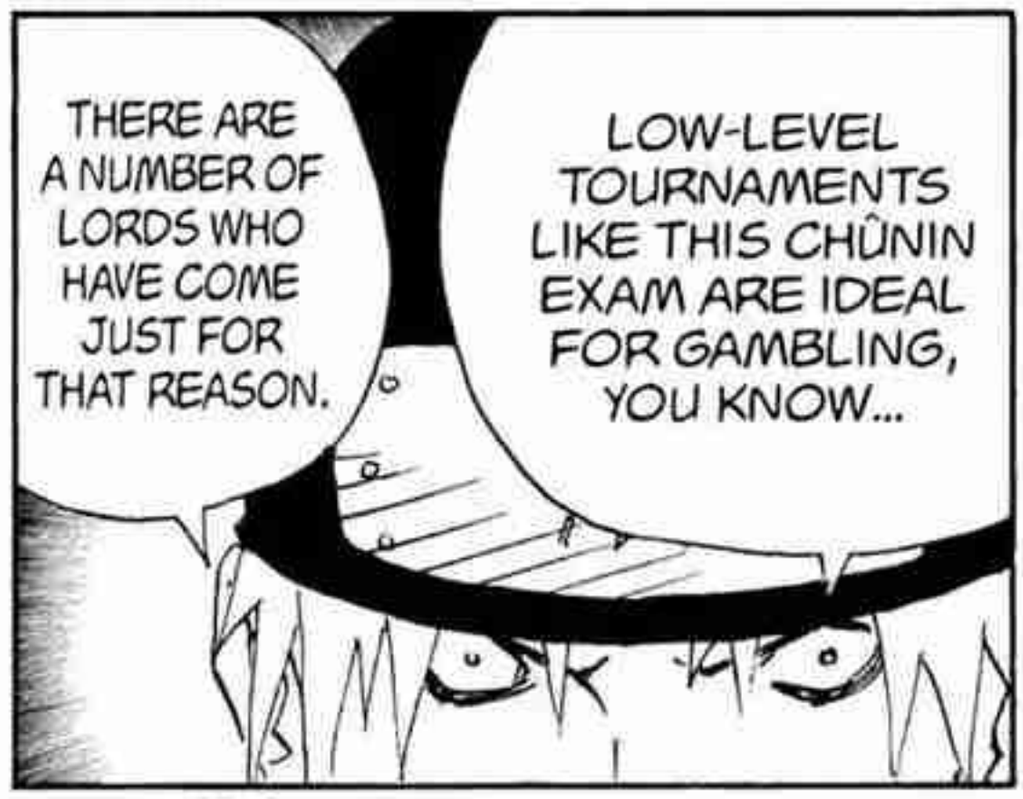
HEY! C'MON, HURRY UP!

NO GOOD EVER COMES FROM RUSHING, YOU KNOW.



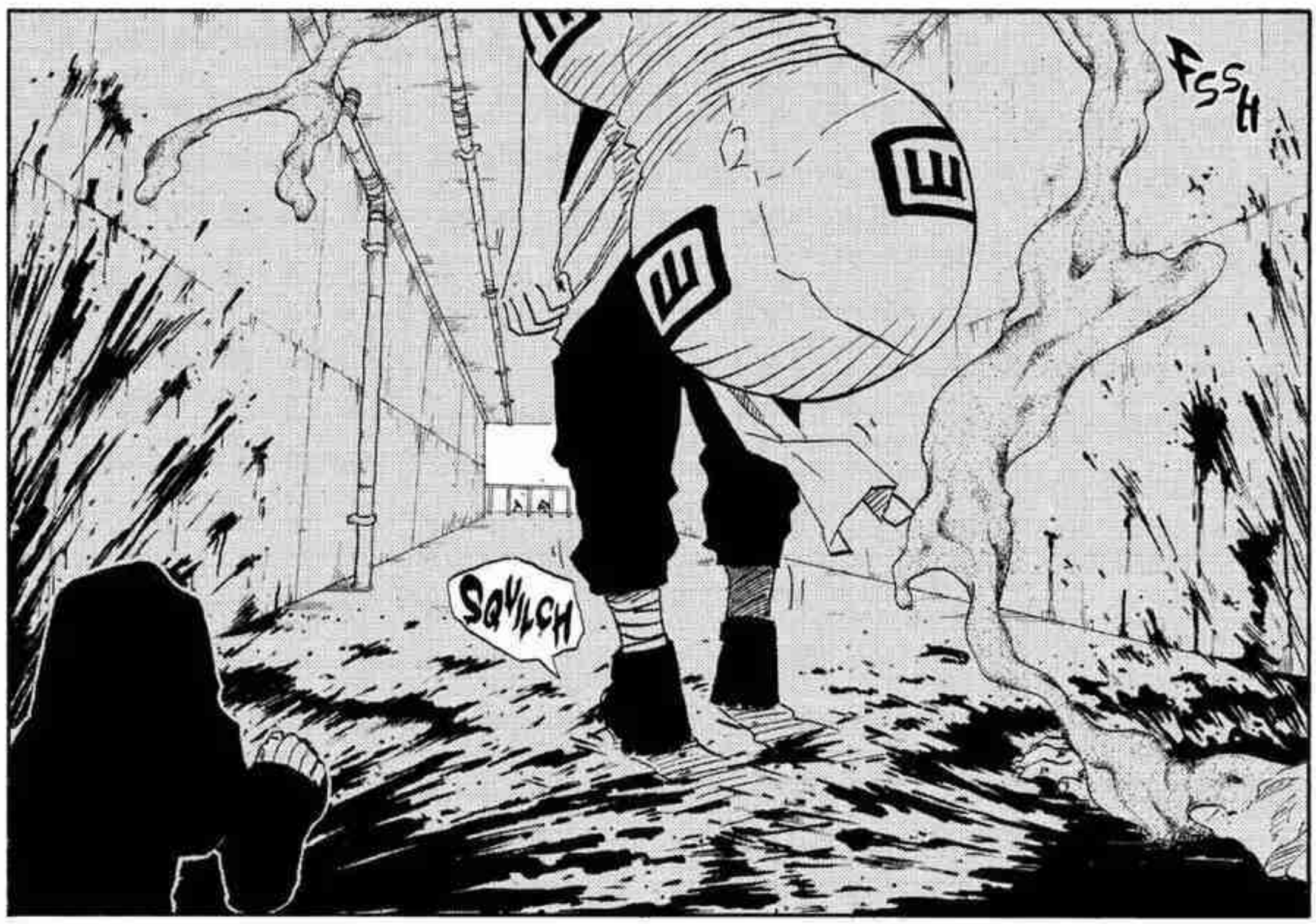


...THIS MATCH... WE WANT YOU TO LOSE IT...
AND SO...


THERE ARE A NUMBER OF LORDS WHO HAVE COME JUST FOR THAT REASON.
LOW-LEVEL TOURNAMENTS LIKE THIS CHÛNIN EXAM ARE IDEAL FOR GAMBLING, YOU KNOW...

愛

SQUICH
SQUELCH
!!!
!!!
RRR OA R
RRRR RROAR
SSSH
SQUICH
FSSS


FSSSH
SQUICH

SSHF
SSHF

SHLUP
FSSSH

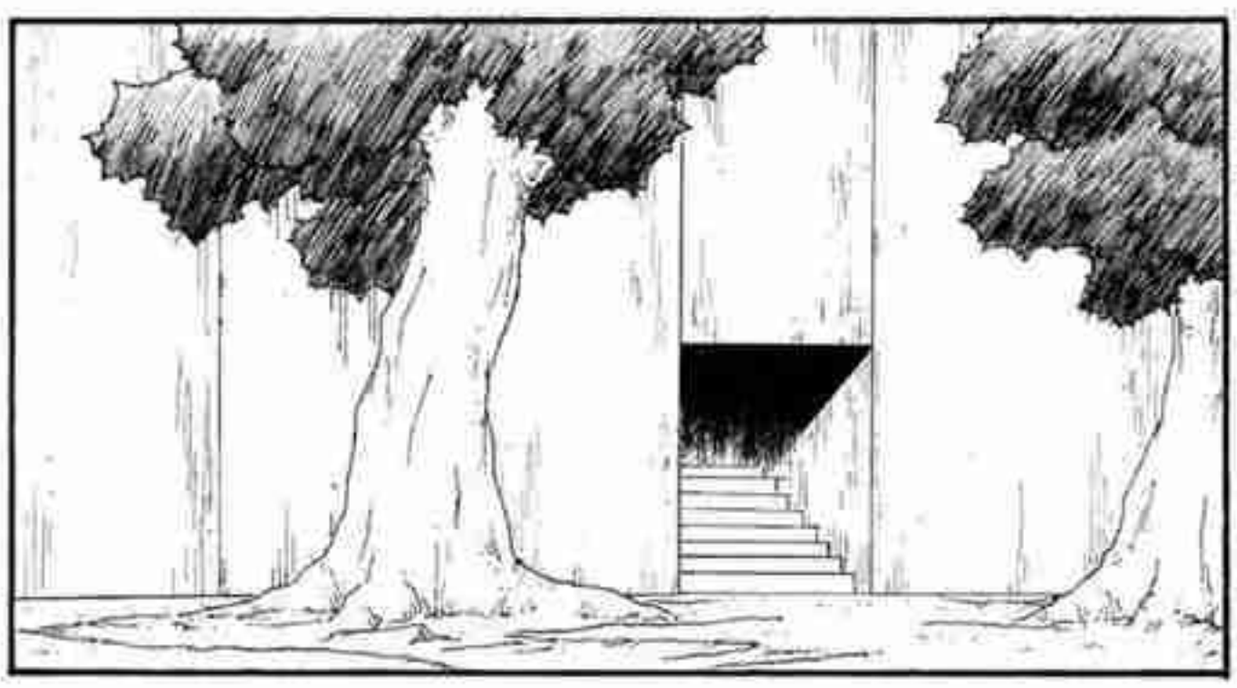
FSSSH
SSSH

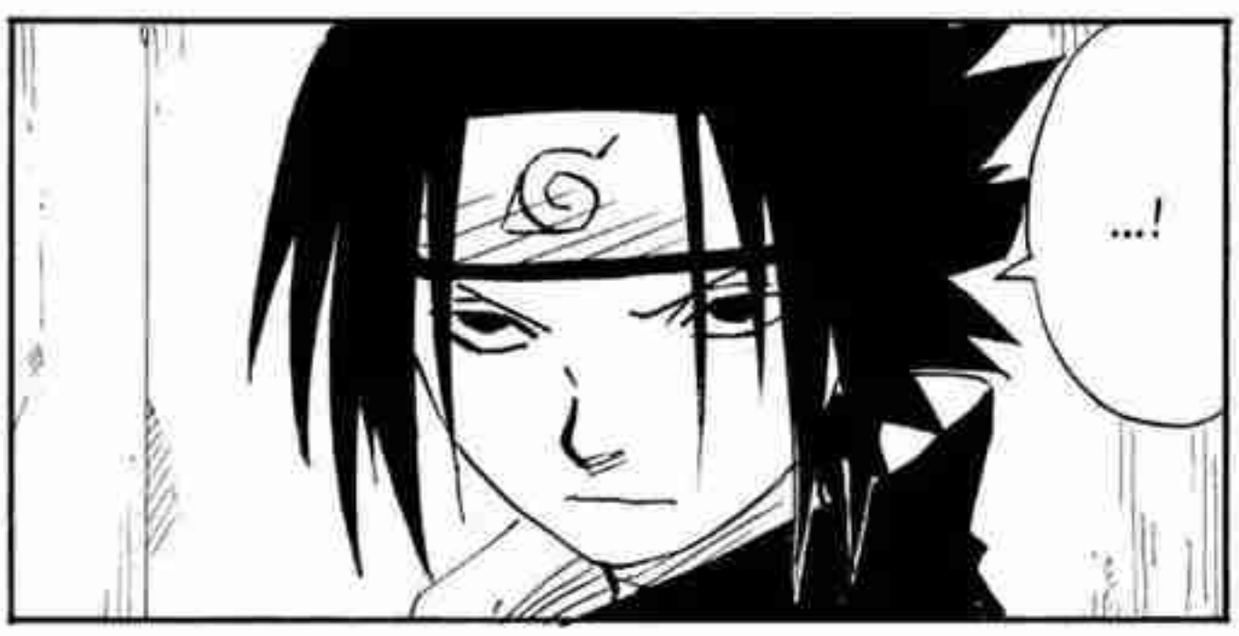
TH-THUMP
TROMP
TH-THUMP
TROMP
TH-THUMP

TROMP
TROMP
...
TH-THUMP

TH-THUMP
TROMP

TROMP
TH-THUMP




...!

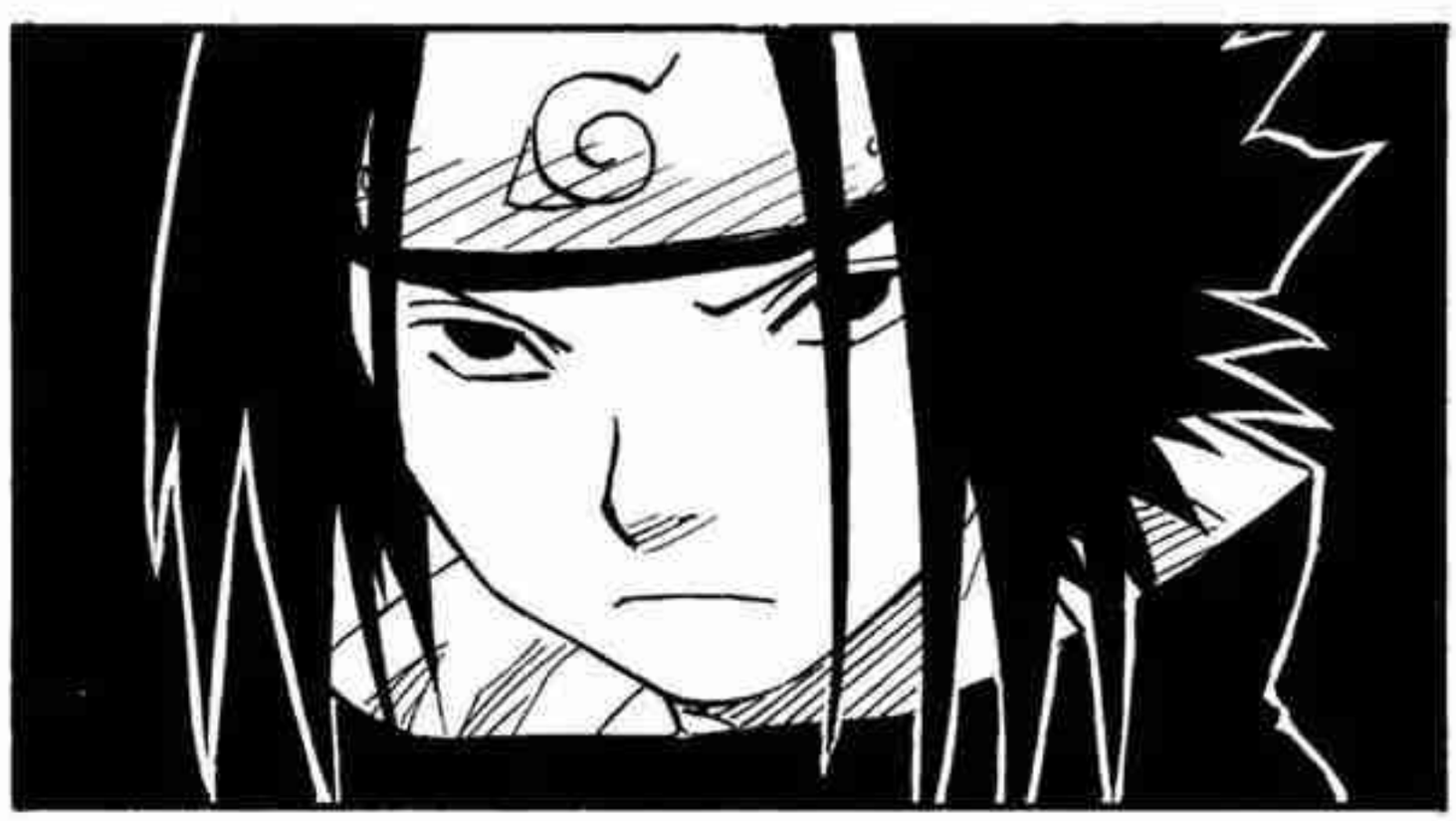
...IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR THOSE TWO... WE PROBABLY WOULD HAVE BEEN KILLED.
(HUF)
WHEW...
(HUF)
(HUF)

CRUNCH

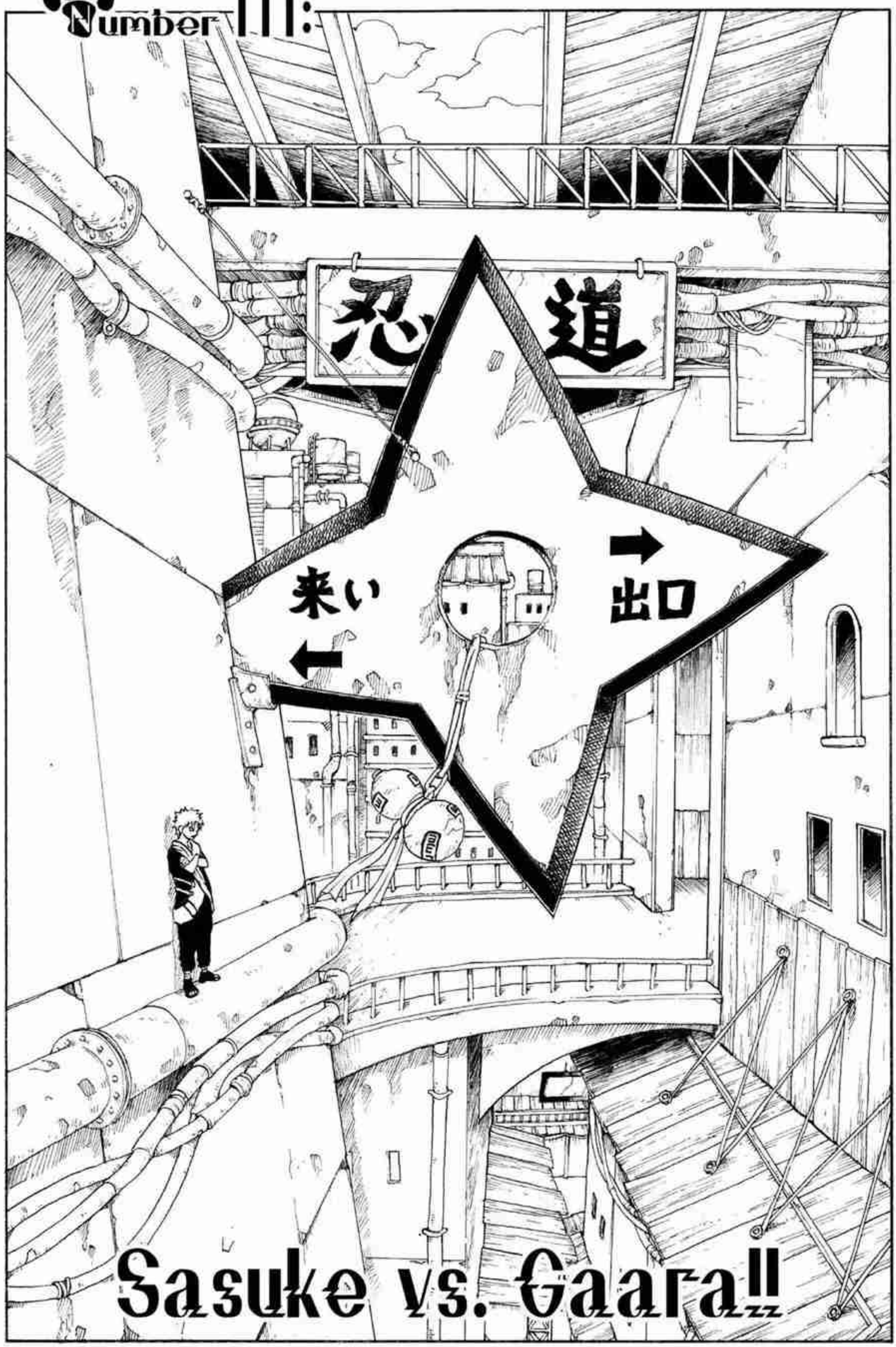
SASUKE...

...EVEN SASUKE BETTER WATCH IT... YIKES...
I'VE NEVER MET ANYONE WHO KILLED SO AUTOMATICALLY.

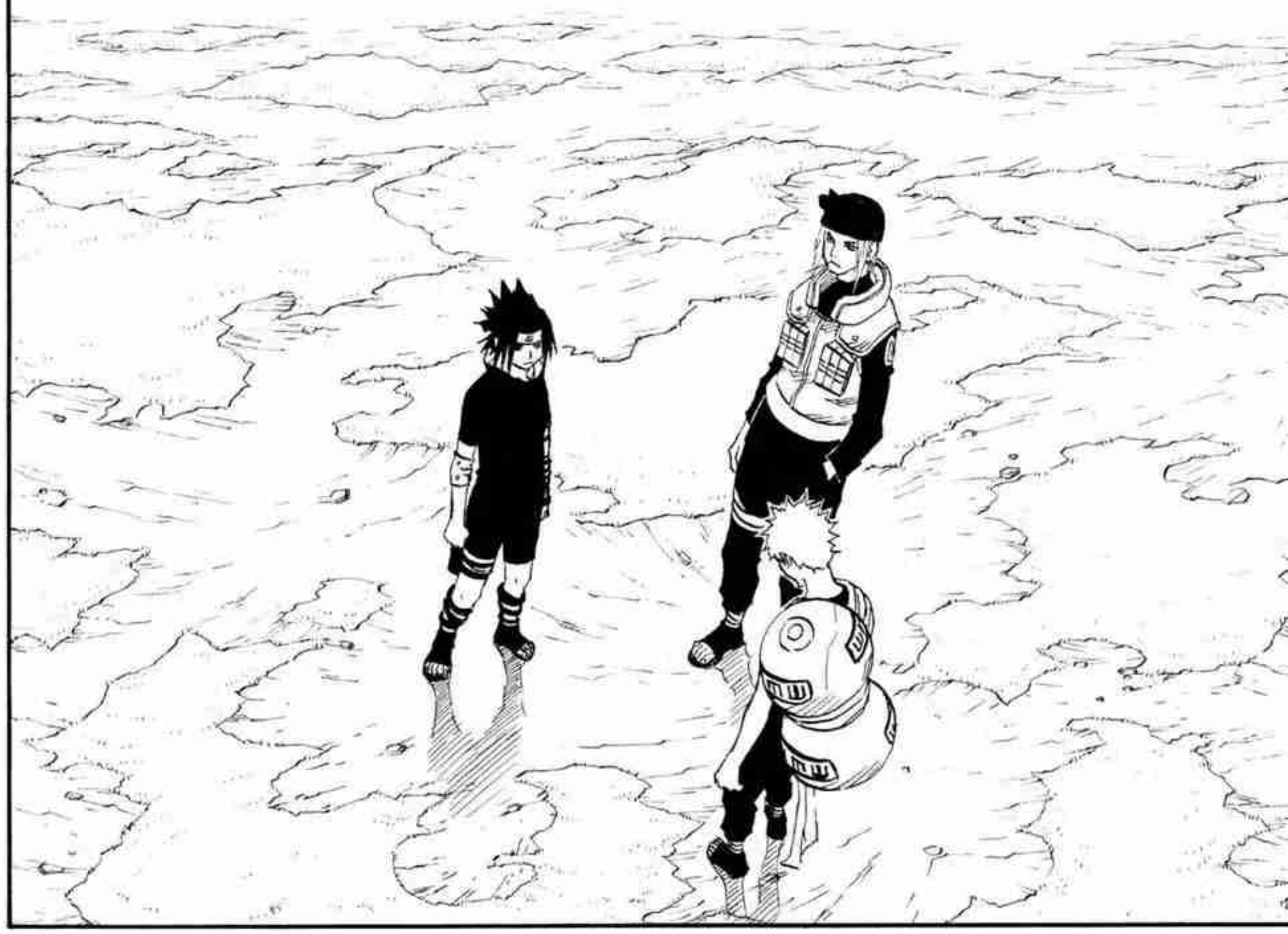
AT LONG LAST...
NOW THEN...

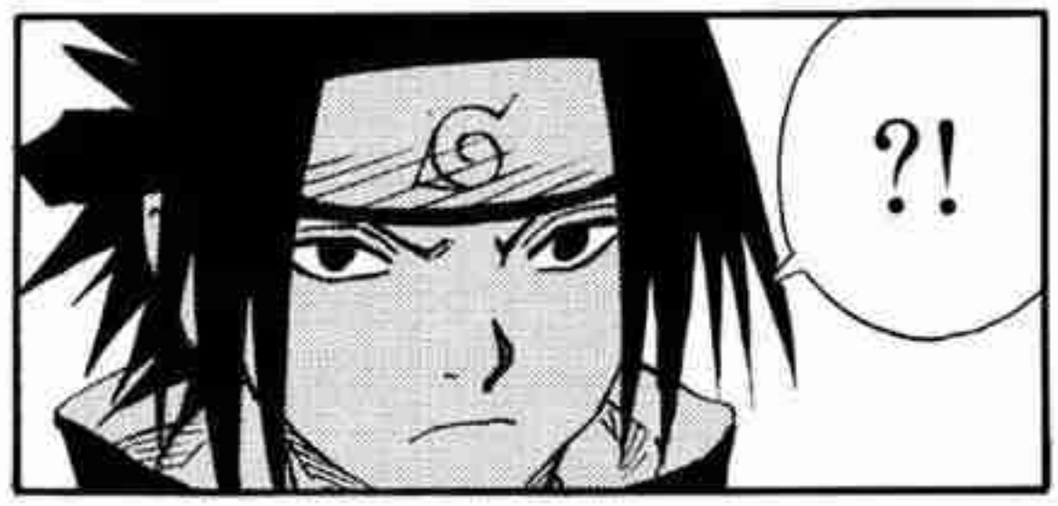


Number 111:



Sasuke vs. Gaara!!

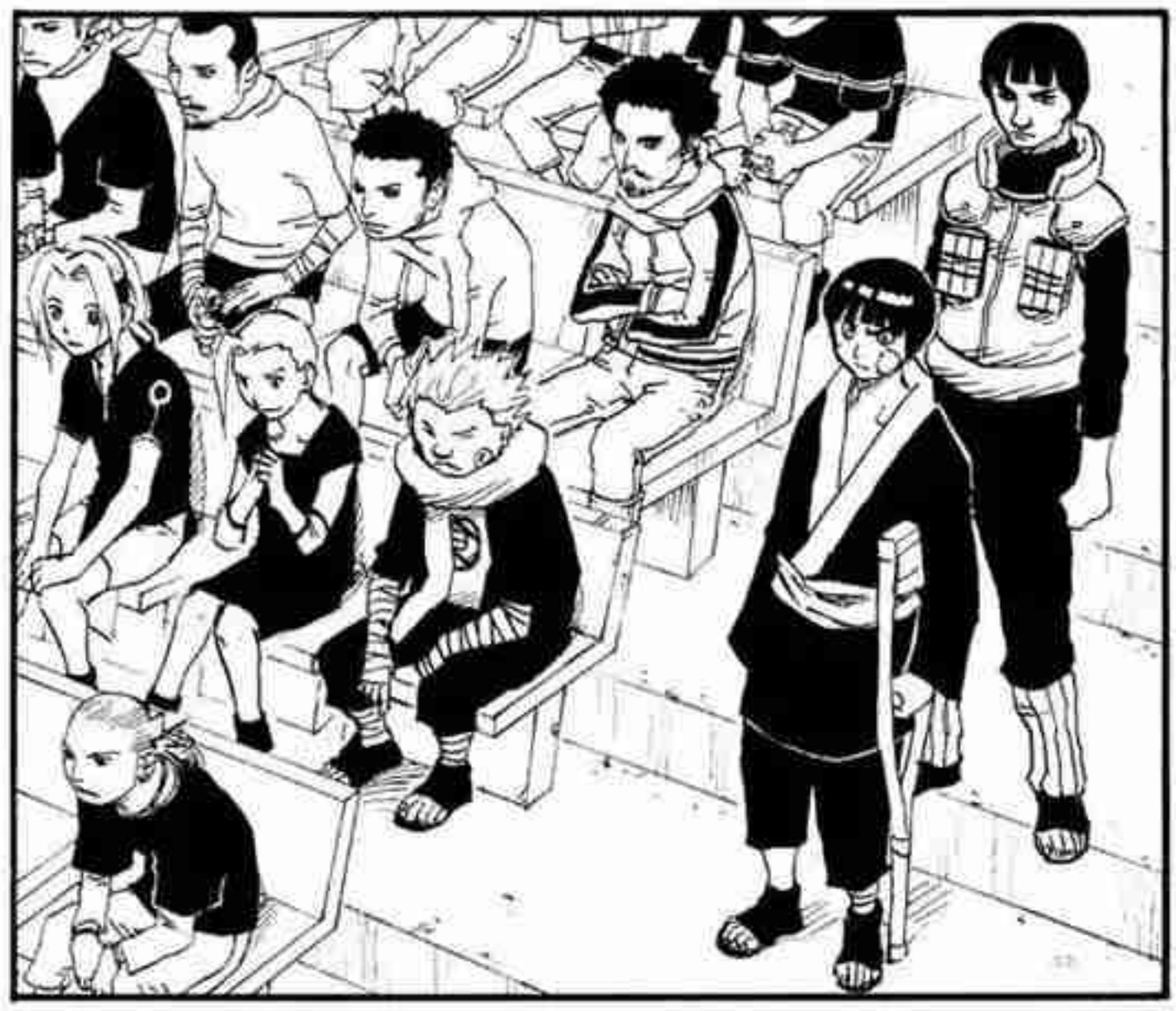



?!

HEH HEH HEH...

!
SHOOM

!



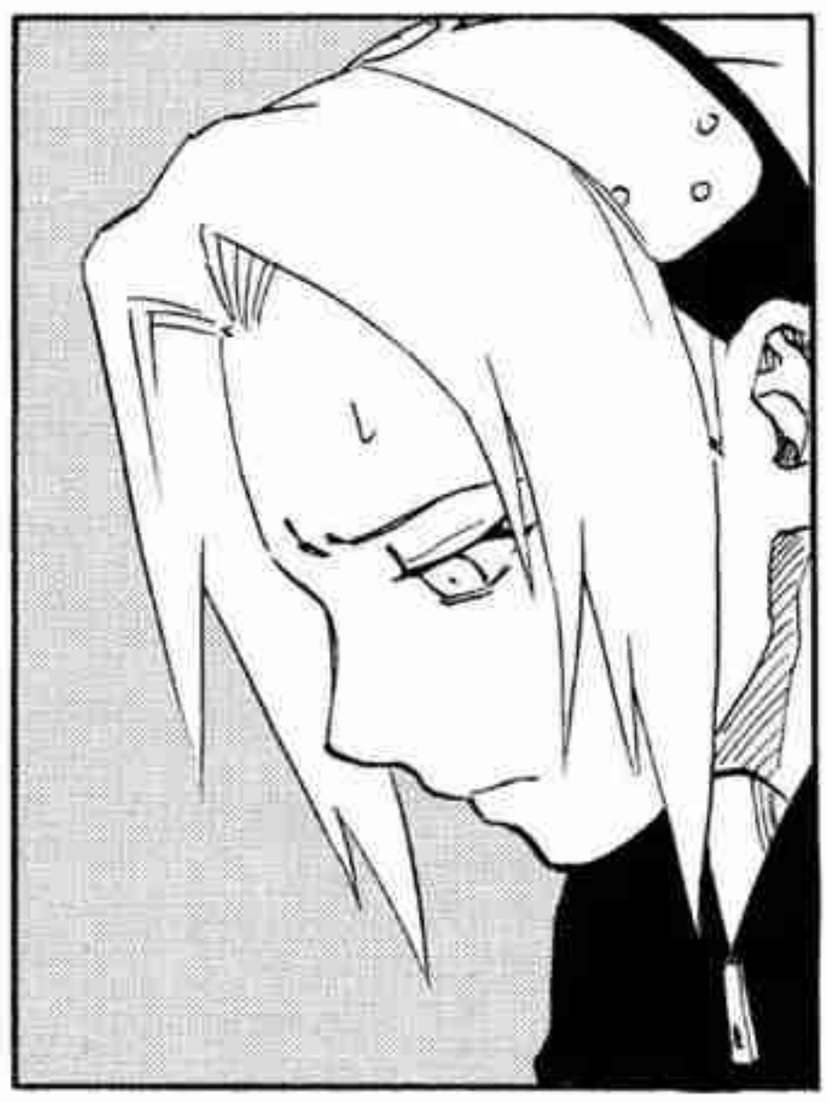
KAKASHI!
!

YO, GUY!
AND YOU TOO, LEE... ARE YOU ALL RIGHT NOW?

MASTER KAKASHI!

OH YEAH. SHE'LL GET MAD... SAKURA WILL...

SORRY I DIDN'T KEEP IN TOUCH...
YOU WERE WORRIED, WEREN'T YOU...?
OH! SORRY, SORRY.



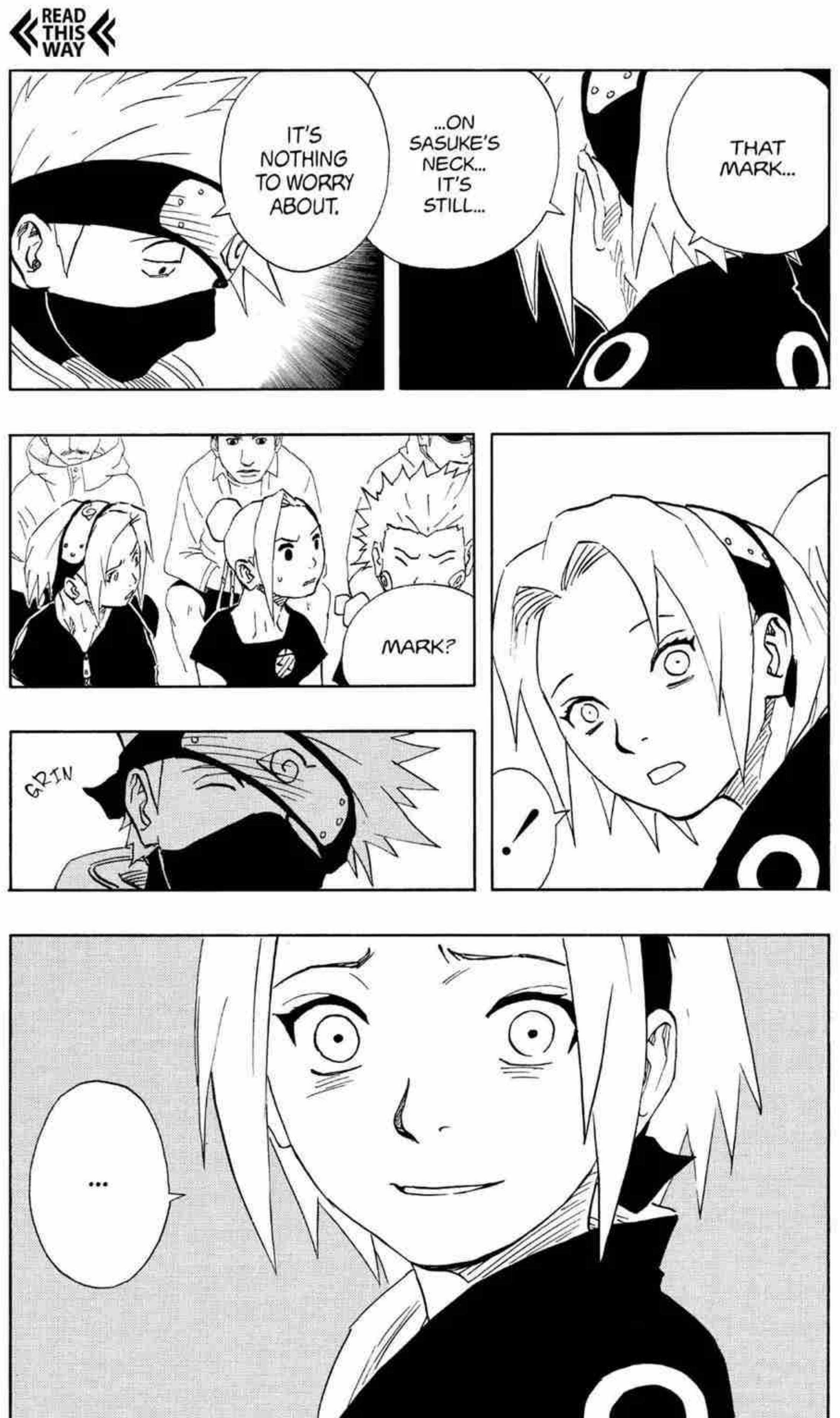
!
...IT'S ALL RIGHT.

I CAN'T SEE IT VERY WELL FROM UP HERE...

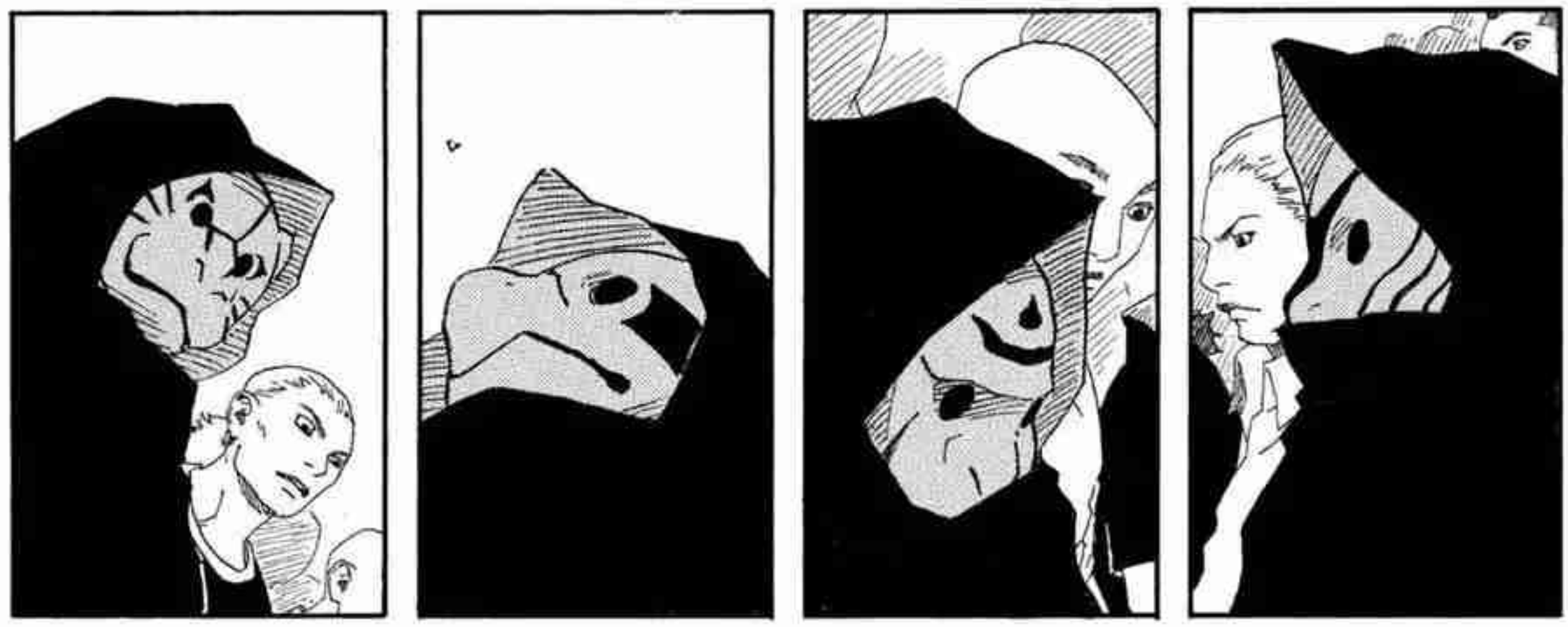
...!

...MASTER KAKASHI...

...


READ THIS WAY
IT'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.
...ON SASUKE'S NECK... IT'S STILL...
THAT MARK...
MARK?
GRIN
!
...

...



MUTTER MUTTER
WELL... NOT KNOWING HOW THE ENEMY IS GOING TO ACT...
...THE BLACK OPS HAVE PROBABLY ALSO BEEN DISPERSED AND STATIONED AROUND THE KEY PARTS OF THE VILLAGE.
ONLY EIGHT BLACK OPS FOR THIS HUGE STADIUM...? TWO PLATOONS AREN'T ENOUGH... WHAT IS LORD HOKAGE THINKING...?

BEGIN!

LEAP
SO THIS IS THE SAND KAKASHI WAS TALKING ABOUT...

FSSSH

THROB
UGH...!

PLEASE... DON'T BE SO ANGRY...
?

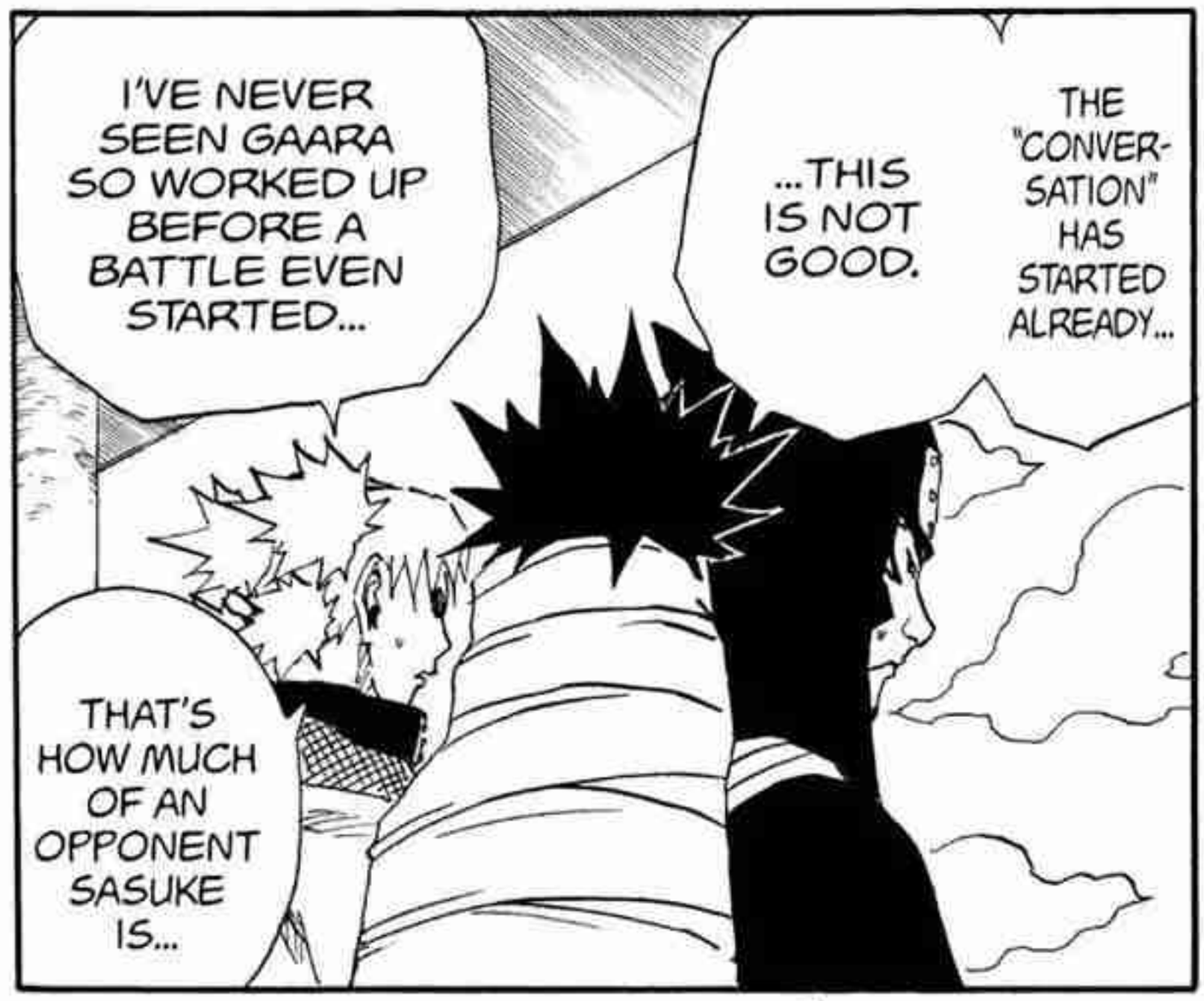
?
FSSSH

WHAT IS HE TALKING ABOUT...? WEIRD.
?!

MOTHER...
HUF
HUF
HUF
...

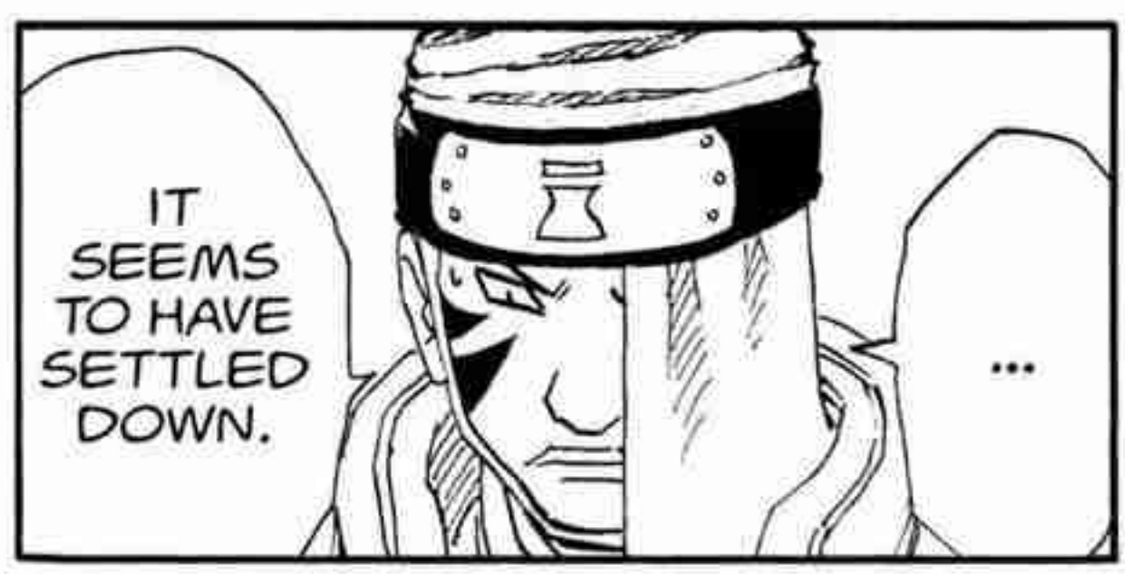
FSSSSSS
I... GAVE YOU BAD-TASTING BLOOD EARLIER, DIDN'T I...?
BUT... DON'T WORRY... THIS TIME...
I'M SORRY...

I'M SURE IT'LL BE REALLY TASTY...


I'VE NEVER SEEN GAARA SO WORKED UP BEFORE A BATTLE EVEN STARTED...
...THIS IS NOT GOOD.
THE "CONVER-SATION" HAS STARTED ALREADY...
THAT'S HOW MUCH OF AN OPPONENT SASUKE IS...

THROB
UGH!

愛
COME.


IT SEEMS TO HAVE SETTLED DOWN.
...

HUF
HUF

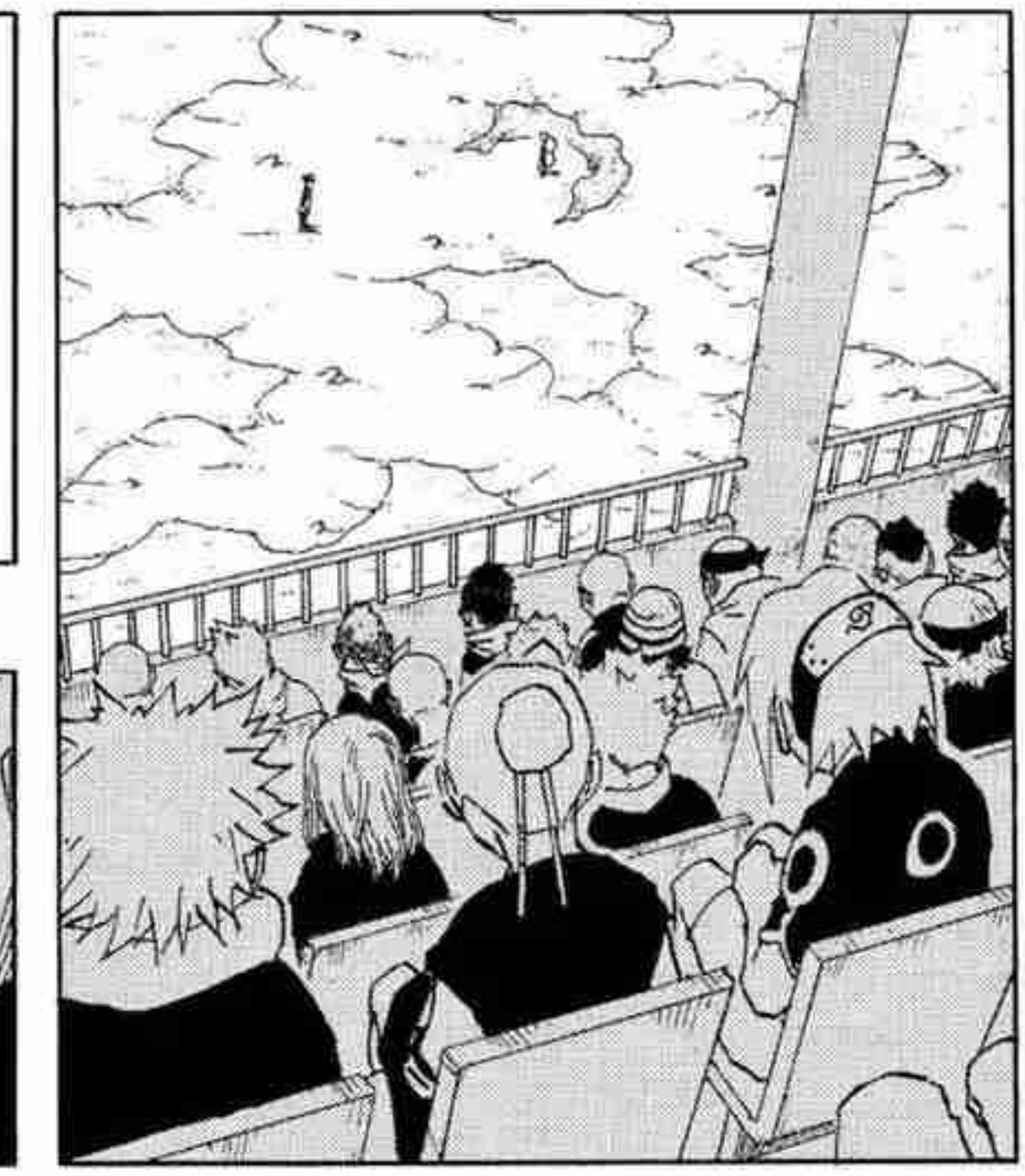
REMEMBER THE TIME WE RAN INTO HIM AT THE HOSPITAL?
THAT TIME, HE SAID...
I WILL KILL YOU ALL...
...JUST YOU WAIT.

BUT... HE DIDN'T.
WE DON'T EVEN REGISTER IN HIS SIGHT.
EVEN THOUGH IT WAS HIS BEST CHANCE...
...NOW...
HELP ME FEEL ALIVE!
愛

WE'RE...
...NOT ENOUGH FOR HIM.

IF ALL OTHER PEOPLE EXIST TO MAGNIFY THAT LOVE, THEN THERE IS NO MORE SPLENDID WORLD THAN THIS ONE.

I WOULD FIGHT ONLY FOR MYSELF AND LOVE ONLY MYSELF.



HERE I COME.

KUTP

SHK
SHK

SHUN

SHHFF

THWOCK

THWOCK

S-S-S-H

DASH

SHH

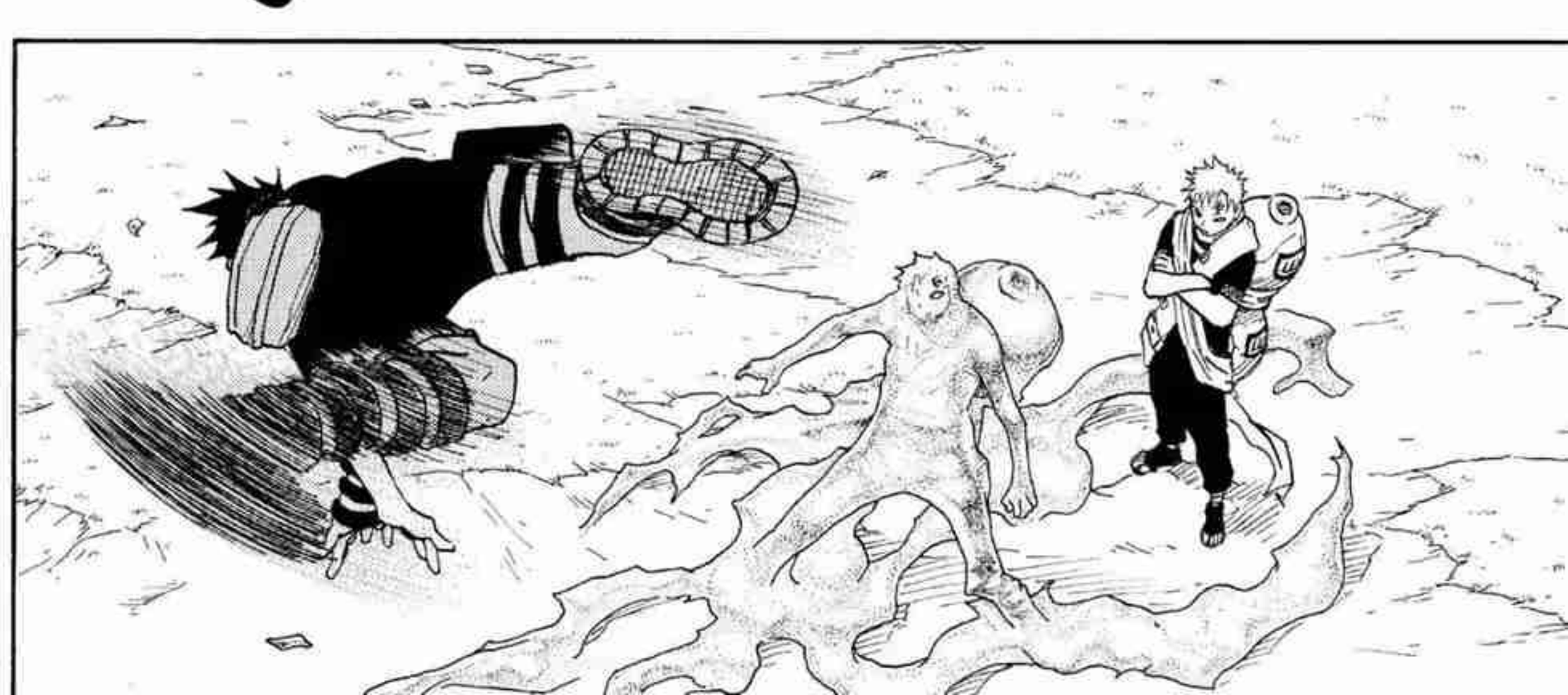
HIS SAND SHIELD TRANS-FORMED INTO A SAND CLONE...!!

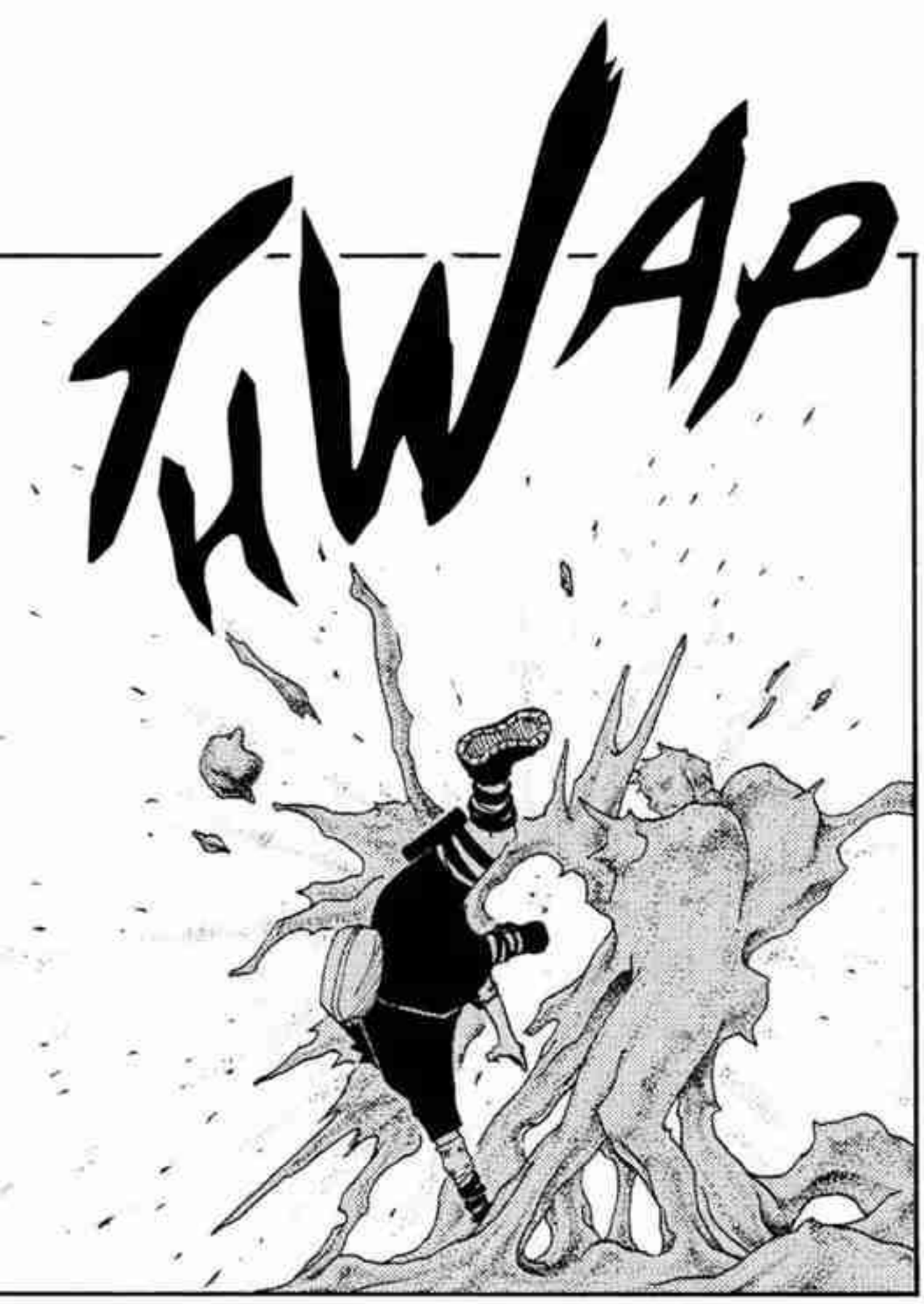
LEAP
SHOOM
!!

!

CHAK
CHAK

FWIP
FWIP
!




FWAP

CLENCH

TAK
SHA

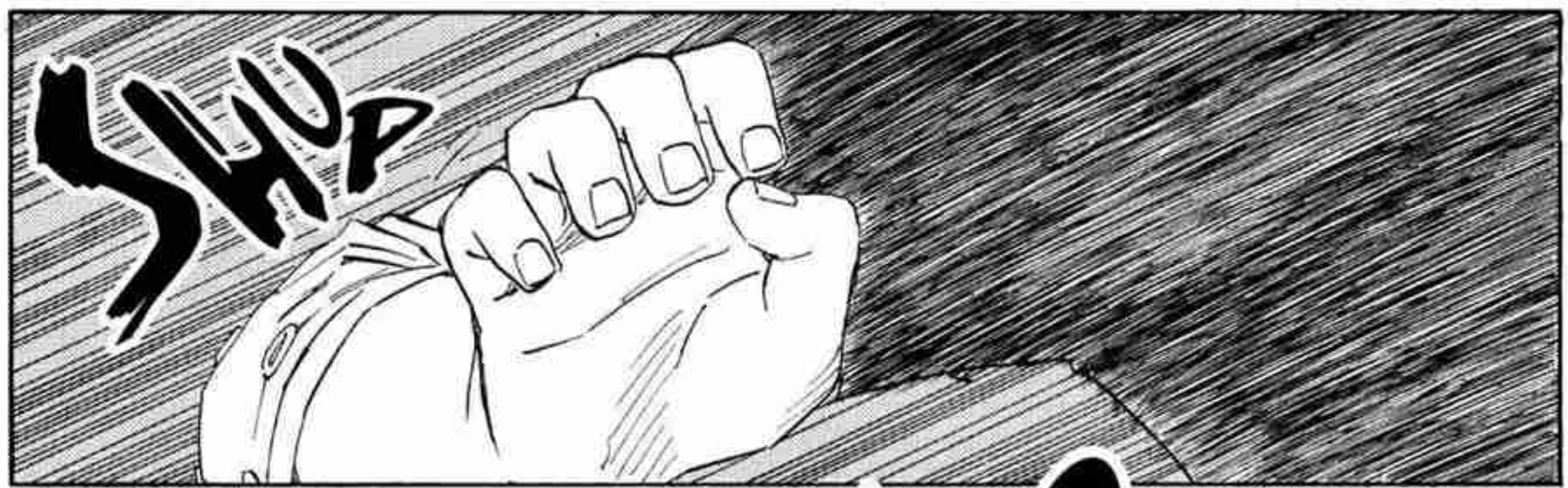
SKKKSH

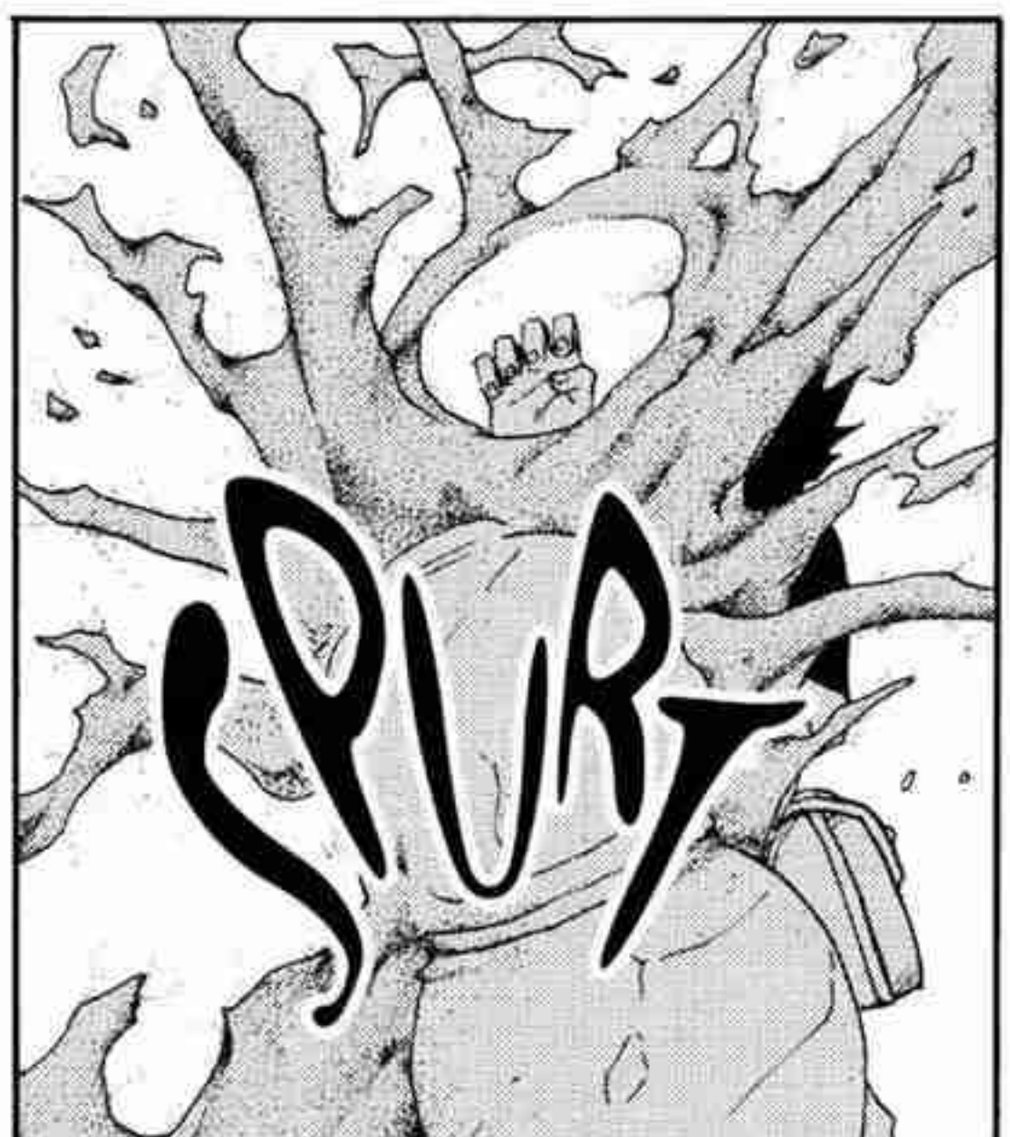
FWP
KA
SHUNK

HEH
FSSSS
GRUNT

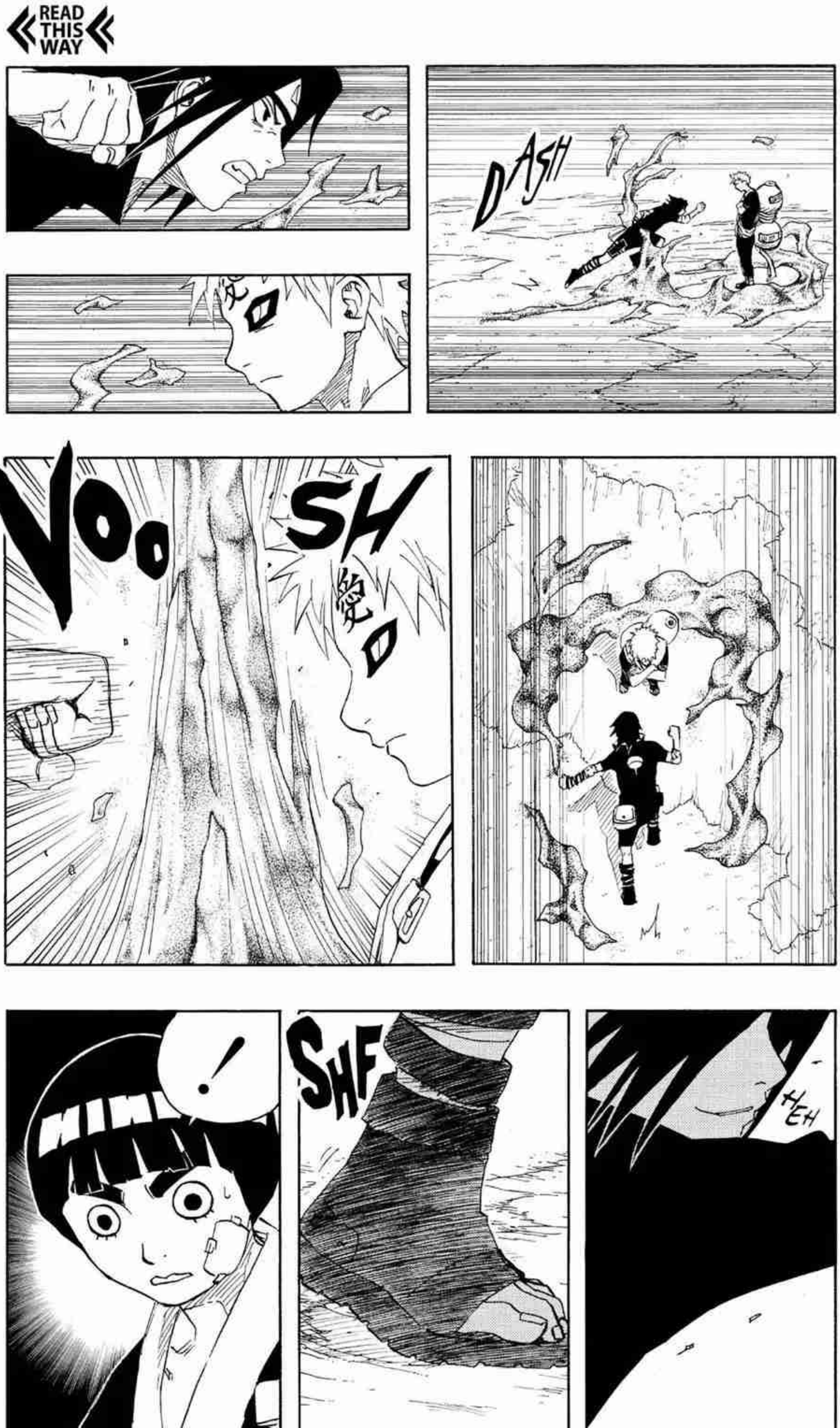
KOO
SH

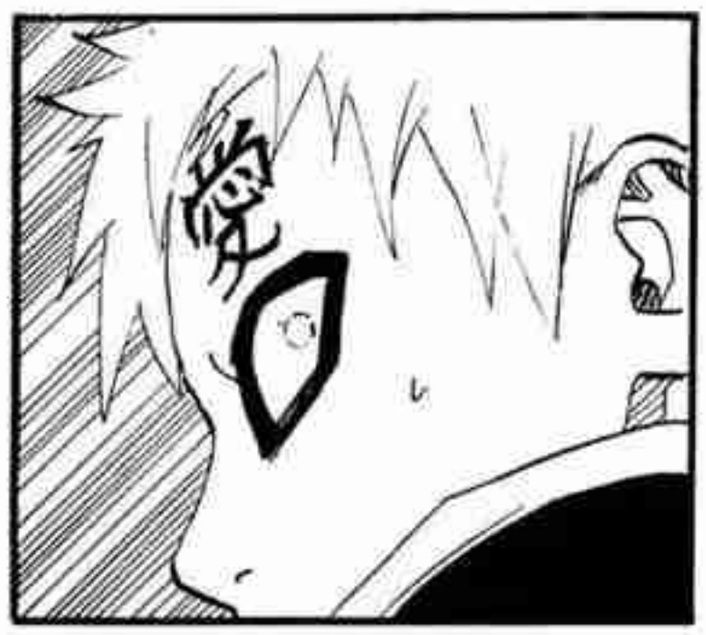
UGH!

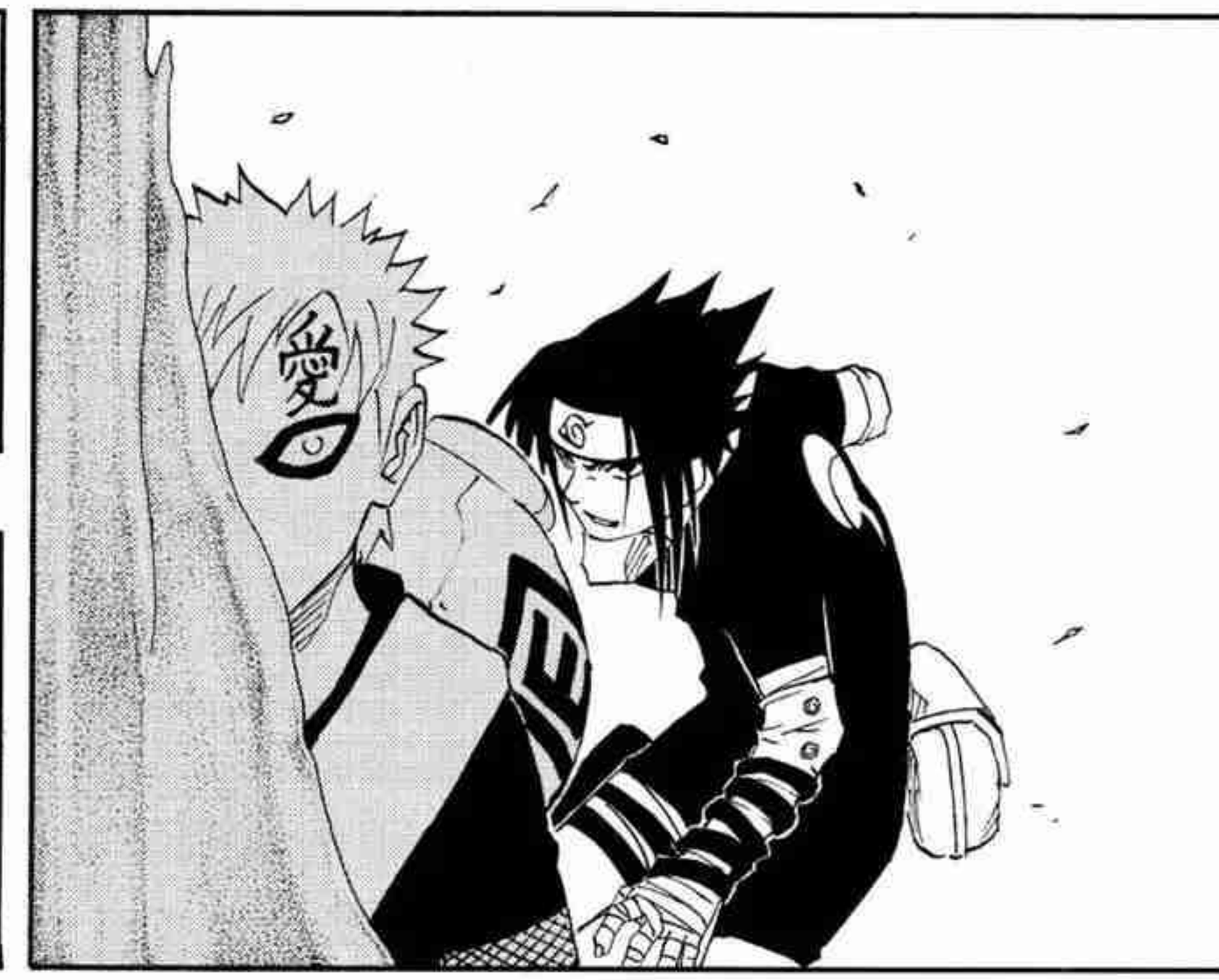

SHUP

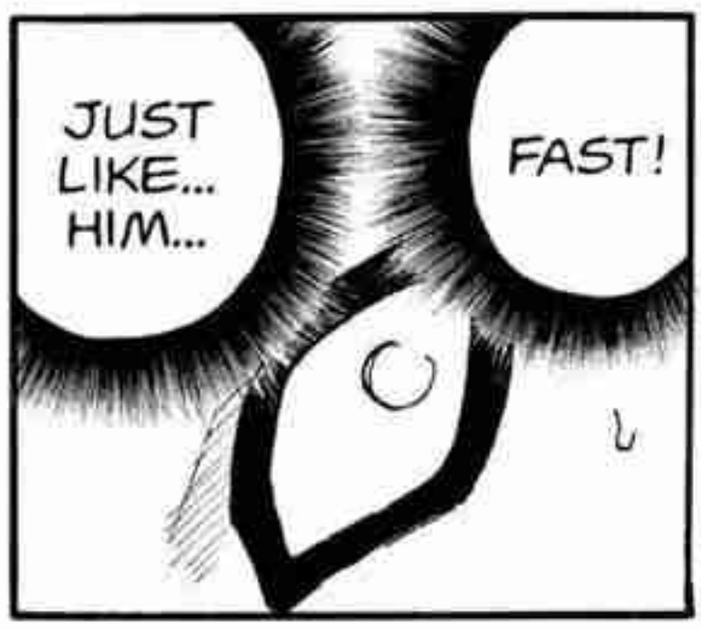

SPURT

FWO
NK
YAH!


READ THIS WAY
DASH
VOOSH
!
SHF
HEH


愛

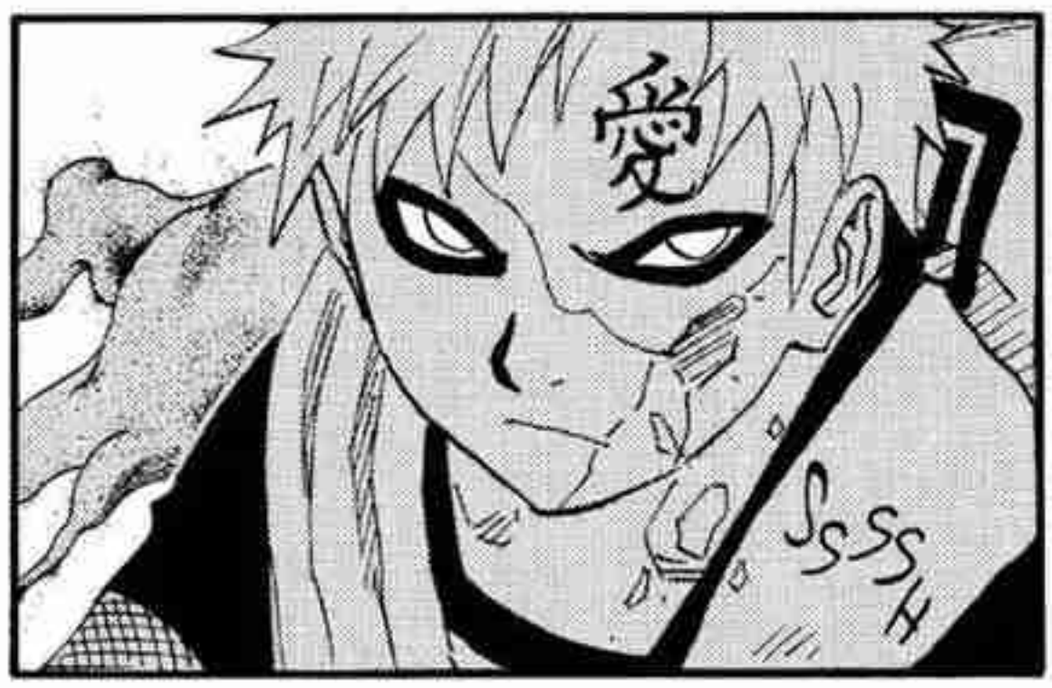

愛

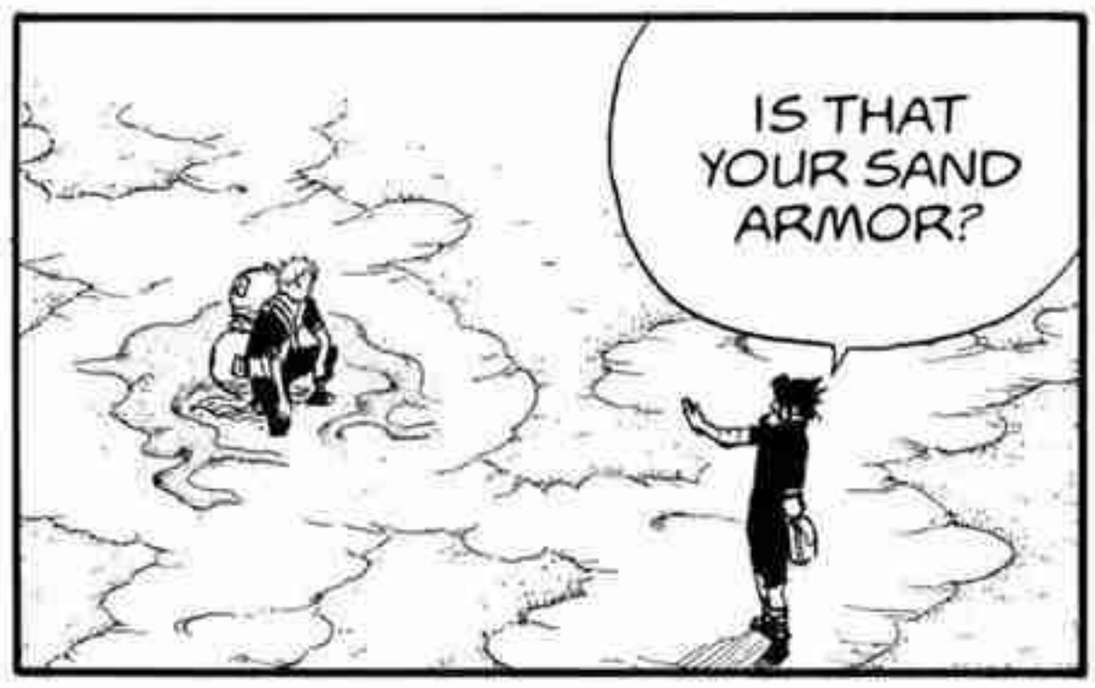

JUST LIKE... HIM...
FAST!

SLAM

AND...
HE'S QUICK!! HE'S ALMOST AS FAST AS LEE'S AVERAGE SPEED...

...MY TAIJUTSU IMAGE!!
...HIS STANCE MATCHES...


愛
SSSH


IS THAT YOUR SAND ARMOR?

SHUP SHUP
COME!

THE WORLD OF KISHIMOTO MASASHI
MY PERSONAL HISTORY, PART 17

HAVING BRILLIANTLY ACHIEVED COLLEGE STUDENT STATUS AND HAVING ALL OF MY CLASSES REVOLVE AROUND DRAWING MADE FOR A DREAMLIKE, HAPPY EXISTENCE FOR ME.

AND NOW THAT I WAS A FIRST-YEAR COLLEGE STUDENT, I WAS ABOUT TO TURN 19 YEARS OLD! I STARTED FURIOUSLY DRAWING MANGA, WITH *JUMP'S* HOP ☆ STEP AWARD AS MY GOAL. "I FEEL A SAMURAI MANGA COMING ON RIGHT NOW!" I THOUGHT, SO I STEADILY DREW A SAMURAI MANGA, BUT THEN, JUST AS I WAS ABOUT TO COMPLETE IT, AN UNBELIEVABLE THING HAPPENED...!!

YIKES! A DOUBLE PUNCH OF NEWCOMERS WHO WERE BOTH THINKING THE SAME THING AND HAD GOOD ART SENSE--I COULDN'T BELIEVE THERE WERE SO MANY!! AND IN THIS WORLD, THE EARLY BIRD REALLY DOES GET THE WORM...!

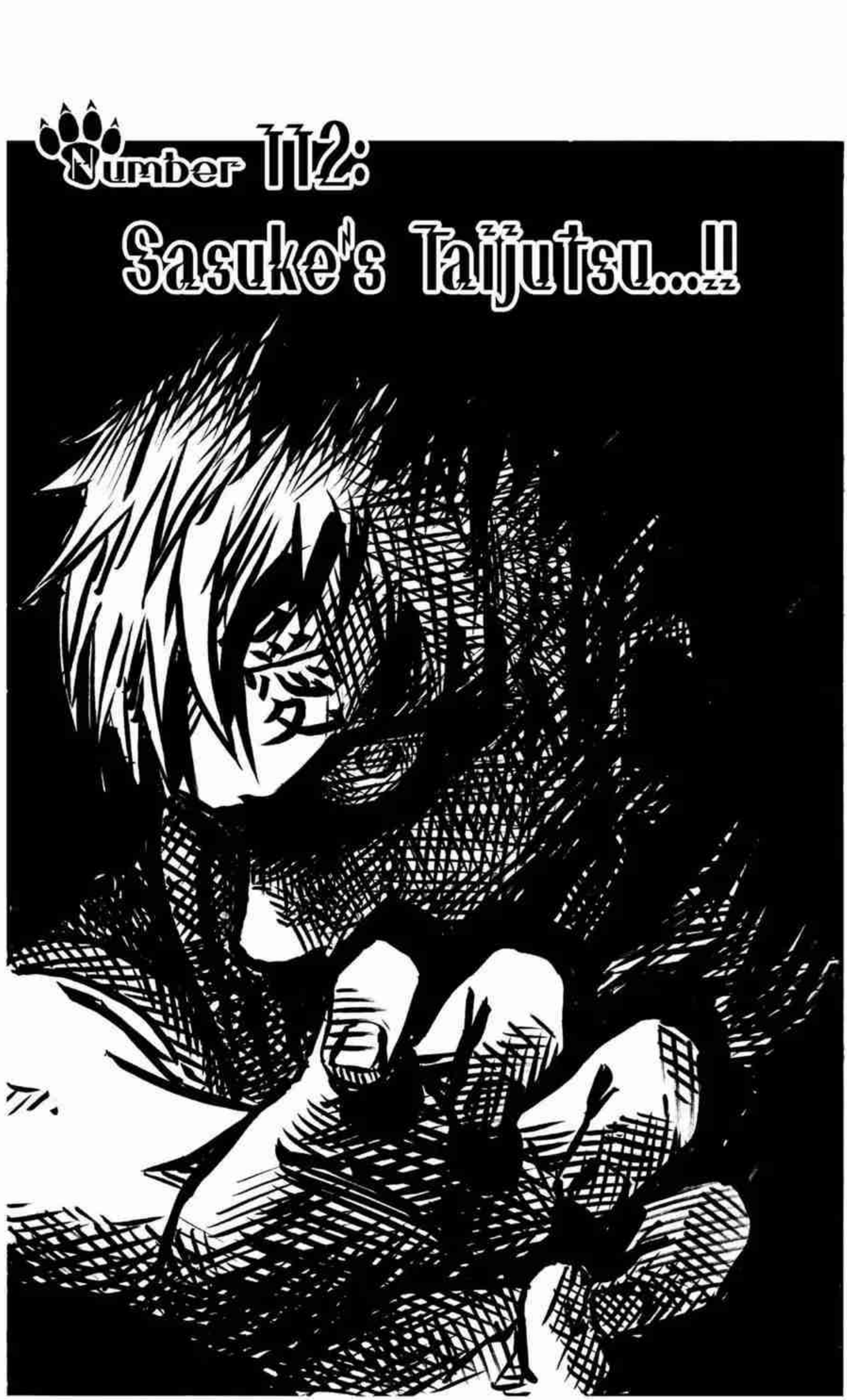
IN THE STAND-ALONE STORY SECTION OF *JUMP* APPEARED A MANGA BY *ROUROUNI KENSHIN* AUTHOR WATSUKI NOBUHIRO-SENSEI! AT THE TIME, THE TITLE DID NOT YET HAVE "KENSHIN" IN IT, BUT IT STILL HAD A HUGE EFFECT ON ME. IN ADDITION, AROUND THE SAME TIME, SAMURA HIROAKI OF THE IMMORTAL SAMURAI *BLADE OF THE IMMORTAL* FAME ALSO WON THE GRAND PRIZE AND FOREVER CHANGED THE STANDARD FOR *AFTERNOON'S* RISING ARTISTS' CONTEST!! SAMURA'S ART AND STORY WERE WAY ABOVE THE LEVEL OF A NEWCOMER, ALMOST THAT OF A FULL PRO!

I RECEIVED THE BIGGEST SHOCK OF MY LIFE SINCE *AKIRA*!

WHEN I CAREFULLY REREAD MY OWN SAMURAI MANGA WITH THOSE TWO AMAZING WORKS IN FRONT OF ME, I FELT MY OWN PUNINESS MORE THAN I CARED TO... OF COURSE, I STILL ENTERED THAT SAMURAI MANGA INTO THE CONTEST, BUT IT DIDN'T EVEN MAKE A MARK... MY PATH TOWARDS BECOMING A MANGA-KA STILL STRETCHED FAR BEFORE ME, WROUGHT WITH PERIL!

Number 112:

Sasuke's Taijutsu...!!

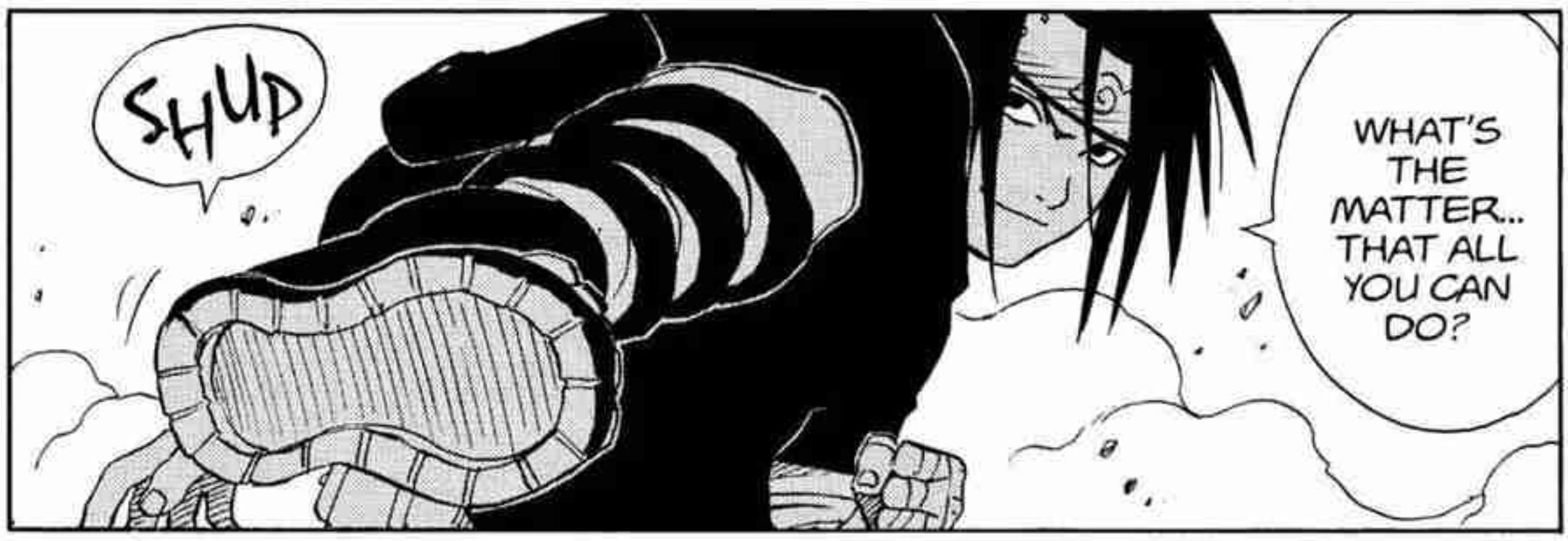


愛
IF YOU'RE NOT GOING TO COME TO ME, I'LL GO TO YOU!

!
FSSSH
SHOOOM
FSSSH
!!
...HE'S SO FAST!
FSSSSH
VOOSH

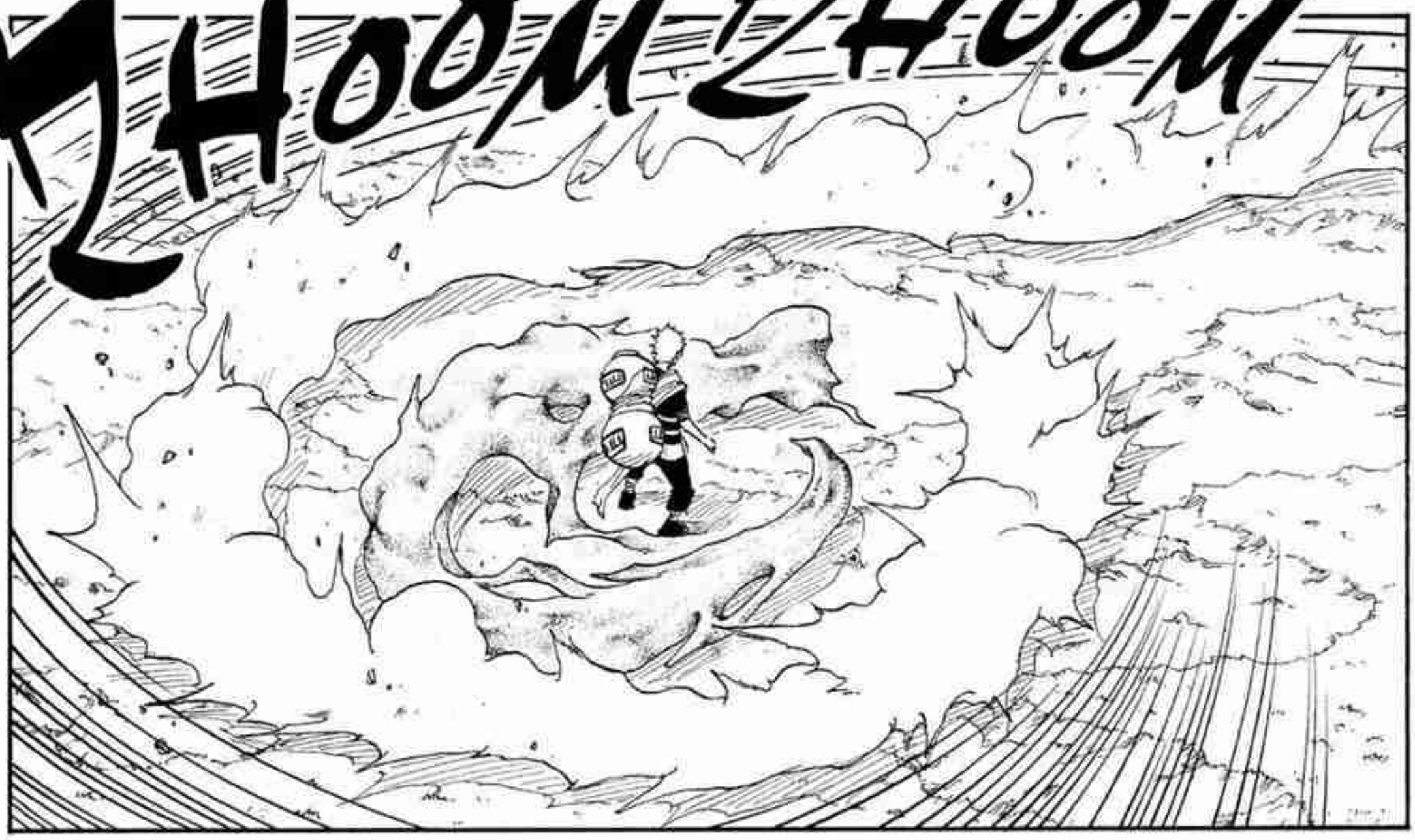
SLAM

THUD



SHOOM

HUF
I'LL RIP IT OFF OF YOU.
HUF
THAT ARMOR OF YOURS...


ZHOOM-ZHOOM

ZHOOM

...AS LEE WITHOUT HIS WEIGHTS.
THAT'S PRACTICALLY THE SAME SPEED...

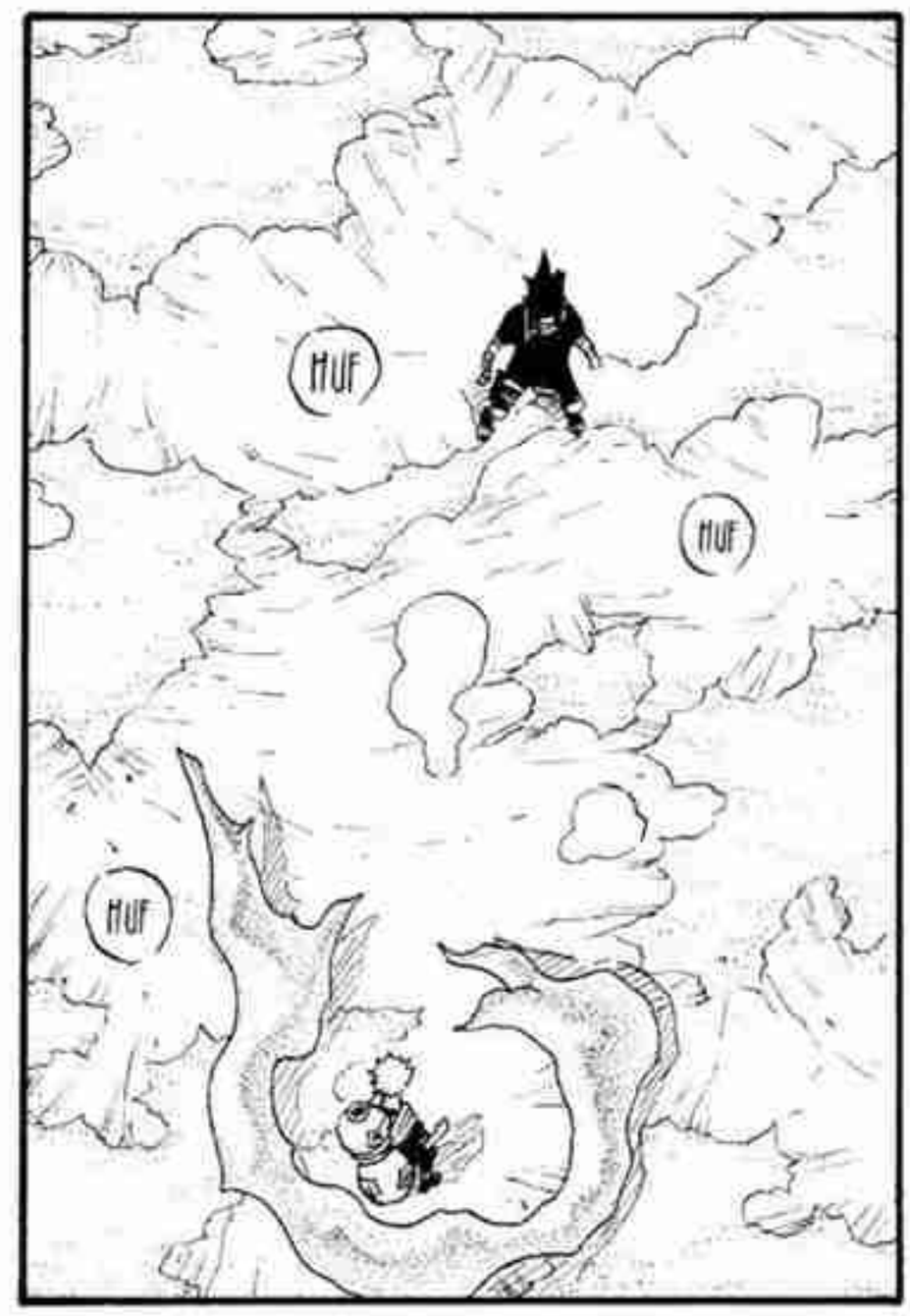
EVEN HIS SPEED IS A LOT GREATER THAN BEFORE!
I-IT LOOKS... JUST LIKE LEE'S TAIJUTSU...

!!
!!
FWUNK
BO
OF
YANK

HUF
HUF
HUF

IT TOOK ME YEARS TO ACHIEVE THAT LEVEL OF SPEED...
SASUKE... YOU REALLY ARE AN AMAZING GENIUS.
BUT YOU ATTAINED IT IN JUST ONE MONTH...

HUF
愛
HUF
PLIP
PLIP


HUF
HUF
HUF

YOU CAN'T KEEP IT GOING THAT LONG...
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO, GAARA...? THE SAND ARMOR USES TOO MUCH CHAKRA...

...

HOWEVER... MAINTAINING THAT SPEED STILL EXPENDS QUITE A LOT OF ENERGY, DOESN'T IT...

...
...SO DURING HIS TAIJUTSU TRAINING, I JUST HAD HIM VISUALIZE LEE'S MOVEMENTS.
SASUKE MIMICKED LEE'S TAIJUTSU USING THE SHARINGAN ONCE BEFORE...
...EXACTLY WHAT KIND OF TRAINING DID YOU PUT HIM THROUGH...
...TO HONE HIM TO THAT EXTENT IN JUST ONE MONTH?!
!

READ
THIS
WAY

BUT... IF THAT'S IT...
...YOU CAN'T DEFEAT THAT SAND SHINOBI WITH TAIJUTSU ALONE.

...HE WAS ABLE TO MASTER THOSE MOVES.
BECAUSE SASUKE KNEW LEE...
OF COURSE, IT WAS STILL EXTREMELY DIFFICULT.

GLANCE

THEN...
HE'S GOT TO KNOW THAT HASTILY ACQUIRED TAIJUTSU ALONE WON'T WORK AGAINST GAARA, WHOM EVEN LEE COULDN'T DEFEAT...
I KNOW HE WATCHED THE MATCH BETWEEN THAT DETESTABLE GAARA AND MY CHARMING LEE...
KAKASHI...

!
FSSSH

WHY DID HE HAVE SASUKE HONE JUST HIS TAIJUTSU?!

FZZZT
FSSHT
覚

FOR WHAT PURPOSE DO I EXIST? WHY AM I ALIVE?
愛
...

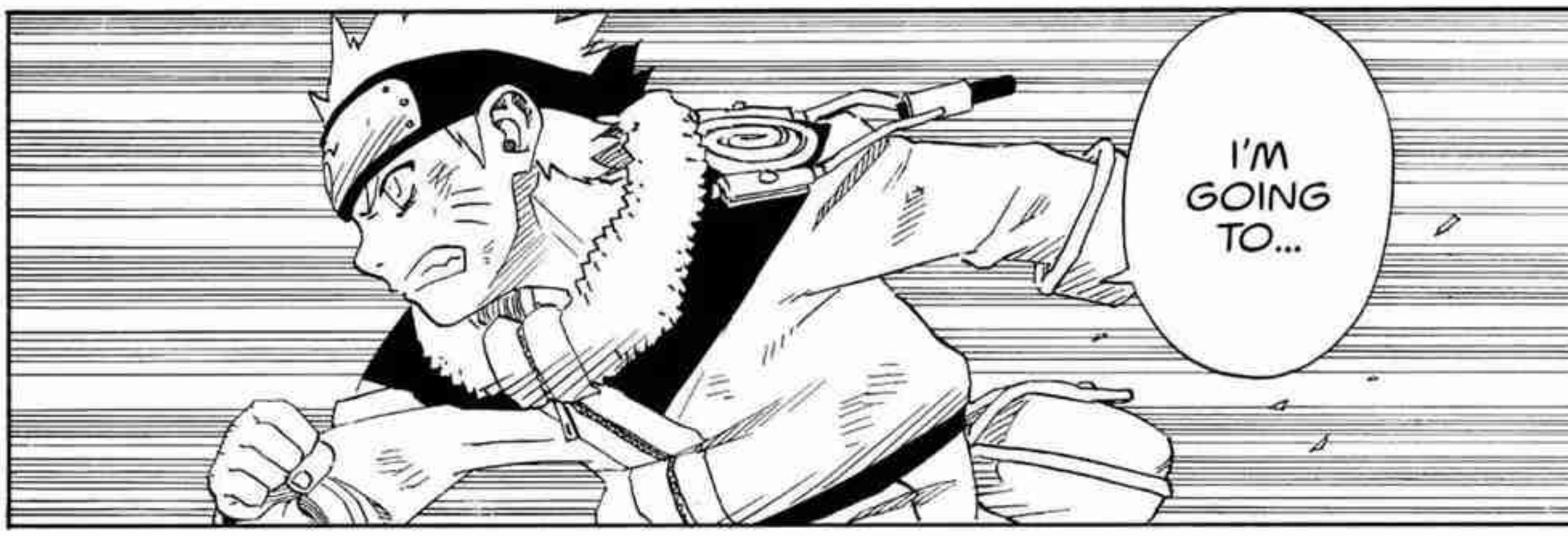
I EXIST TO KILL ALL HUMANS OTHER THAN MYSELF.
愛
WHILE I CONTINUE TO LIVE, I NEED A REASON.

WHAT ARE YOU THINKING...?

LET'S GO UP TO MASTER KAKASHI!
SHIKA-MARU ...

SHUP
!

DASH!
HEY!

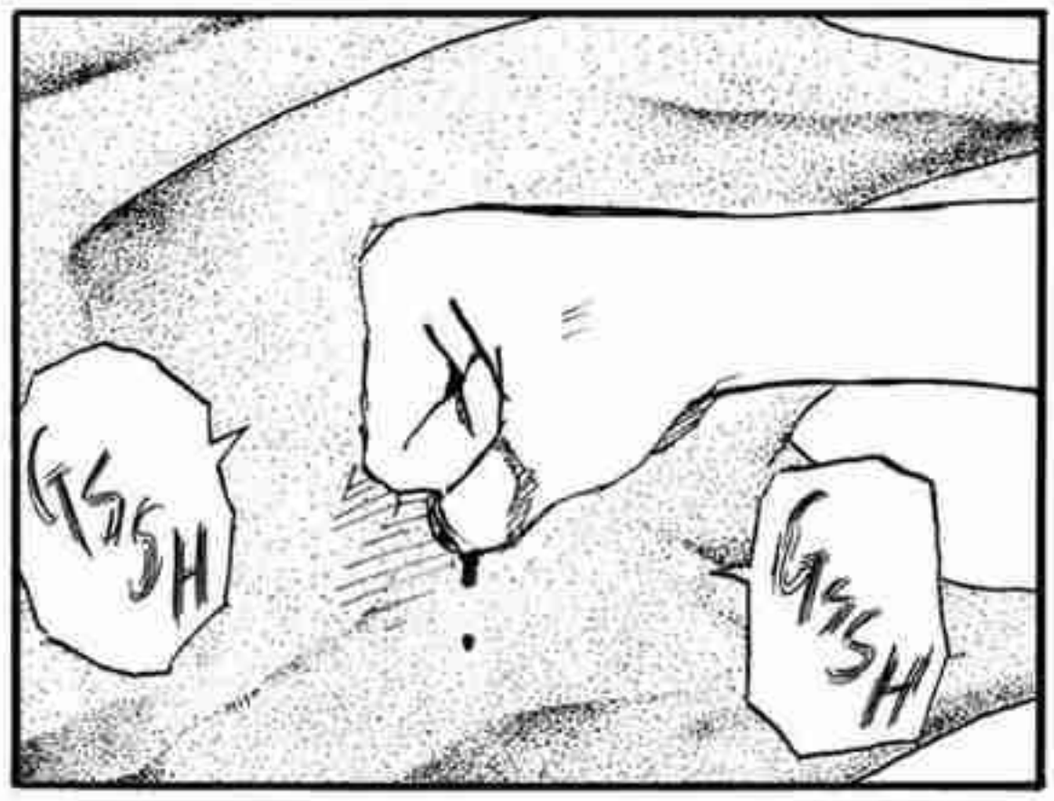

I'M GOING TO...

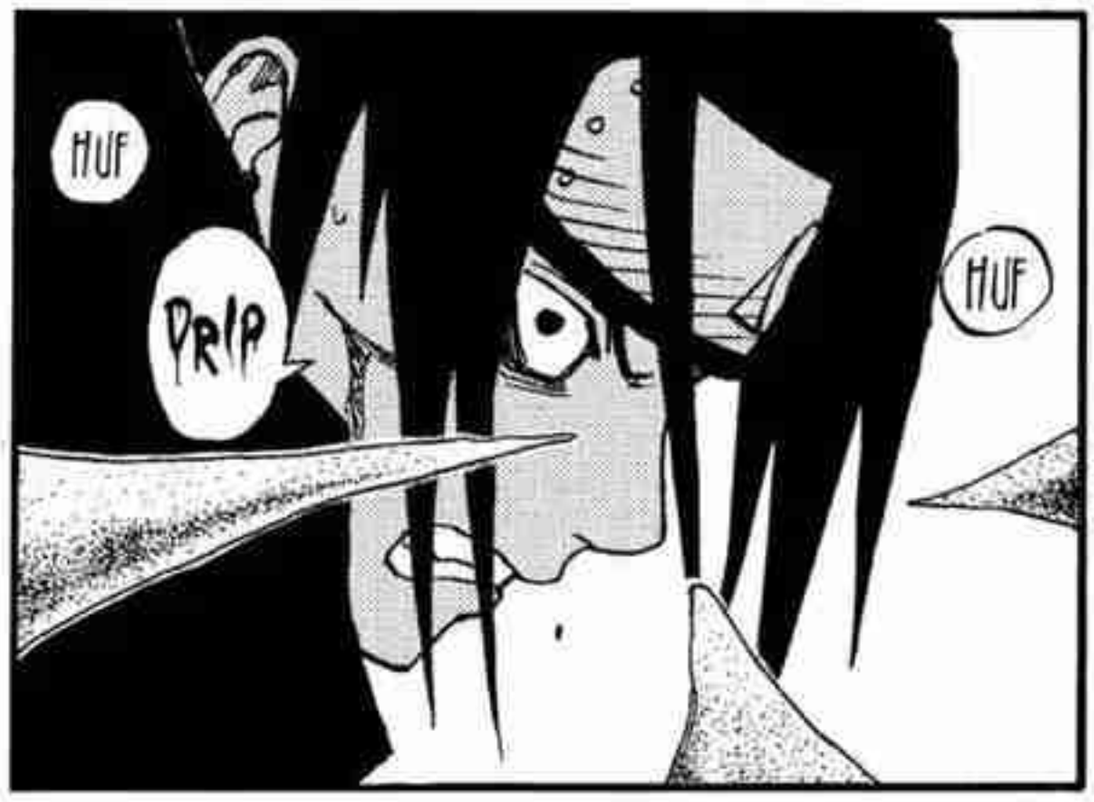
...STOP THIS MATCH!!

ZOOM

READ THIS WAY
DON'T TELL ME GAARA'S INITIATING THAT JUTSU?!?!
KSOSSH
SSOSH
FWUNK

!!!

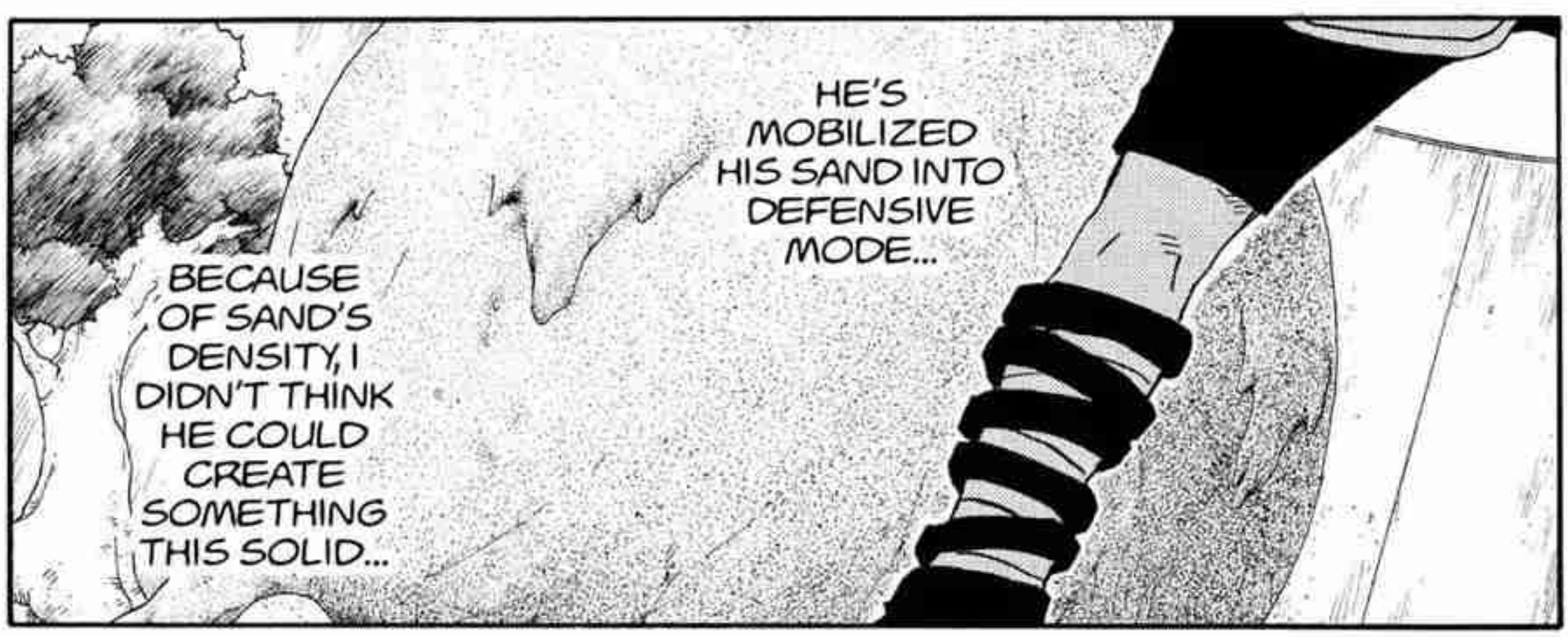

GASSH
GASSH


HUF
DRIP
HUF

HUF
PLIP
HUF

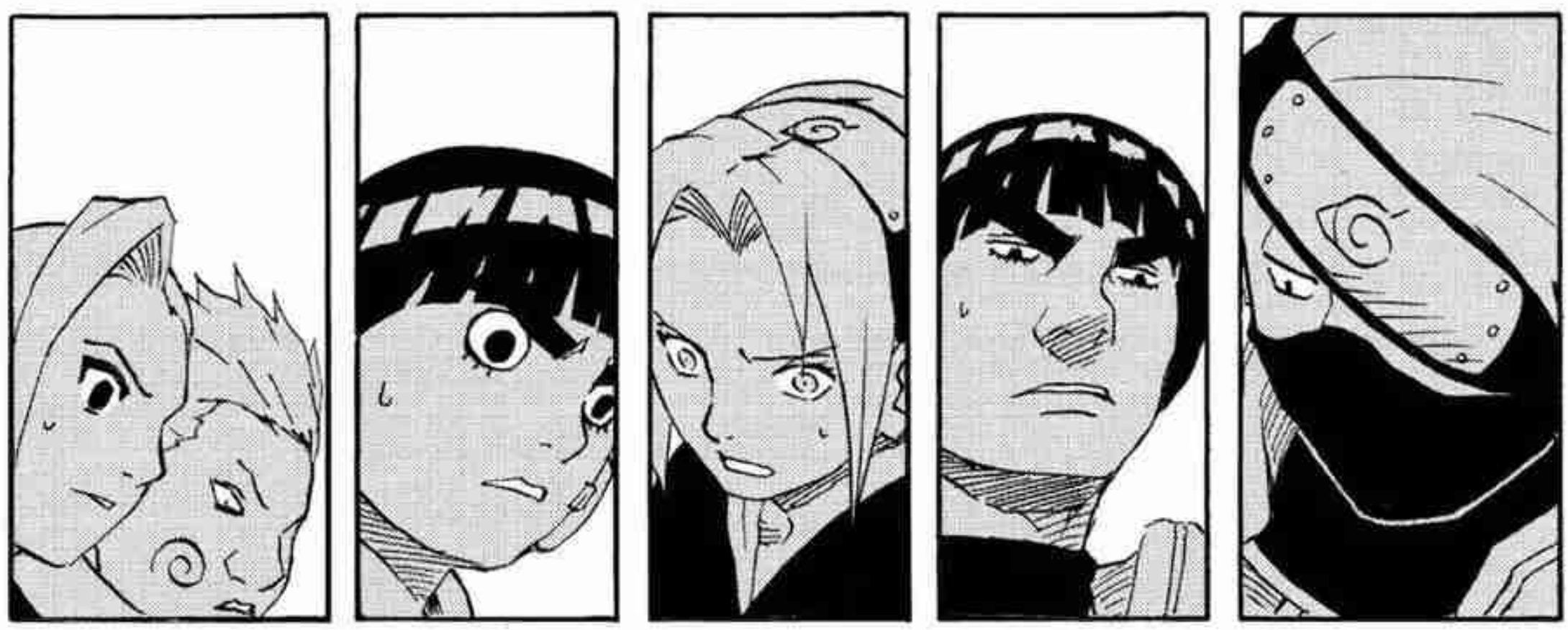
FSSSSSH
SHUP
UGH...

HUF
THROB
PLIP
HUF

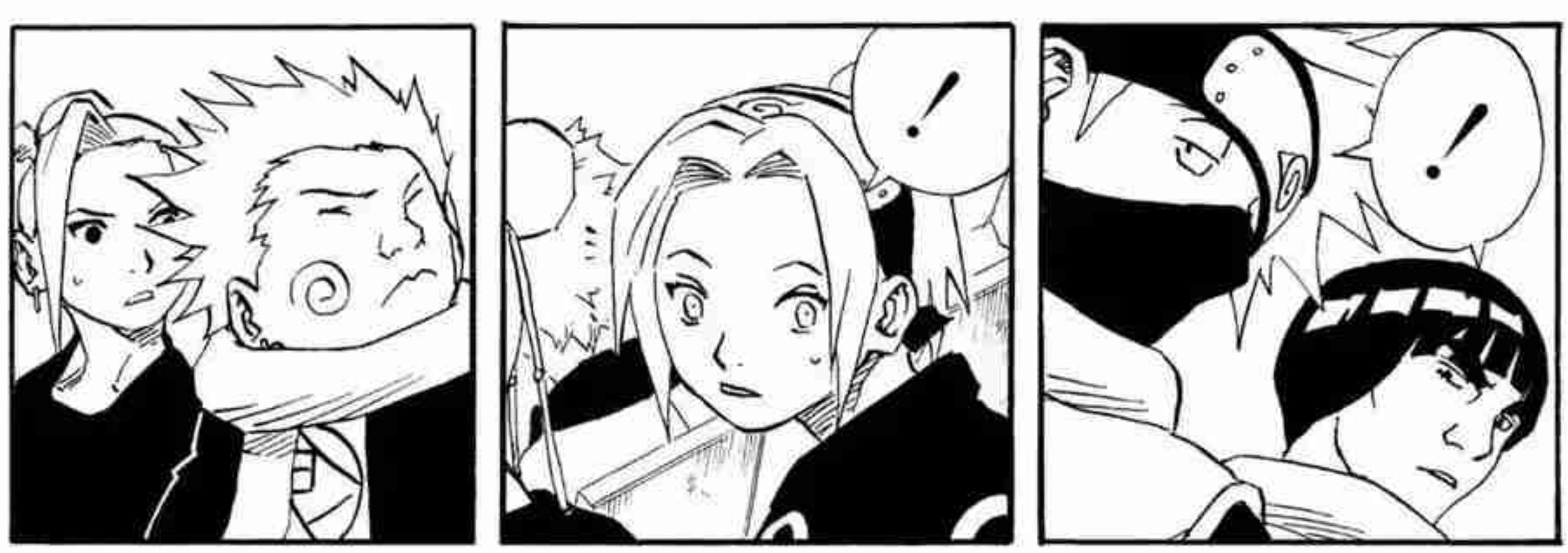

BECAUSE OF SAND'S DENSITY, I DIDN'T THINK HE COULD CREATE SOMETHING THIS SOLID...
HE'S MOBILIZED HIS SAND INTO DEFENSIVE MODE...

SO THIS IS THE MEANING OF AN ABSOLUTE DEFENSE, HUH...?
HUF

TWITCH
TWITCH



MASTER KAKASHI!!


!
!

NARUTO!

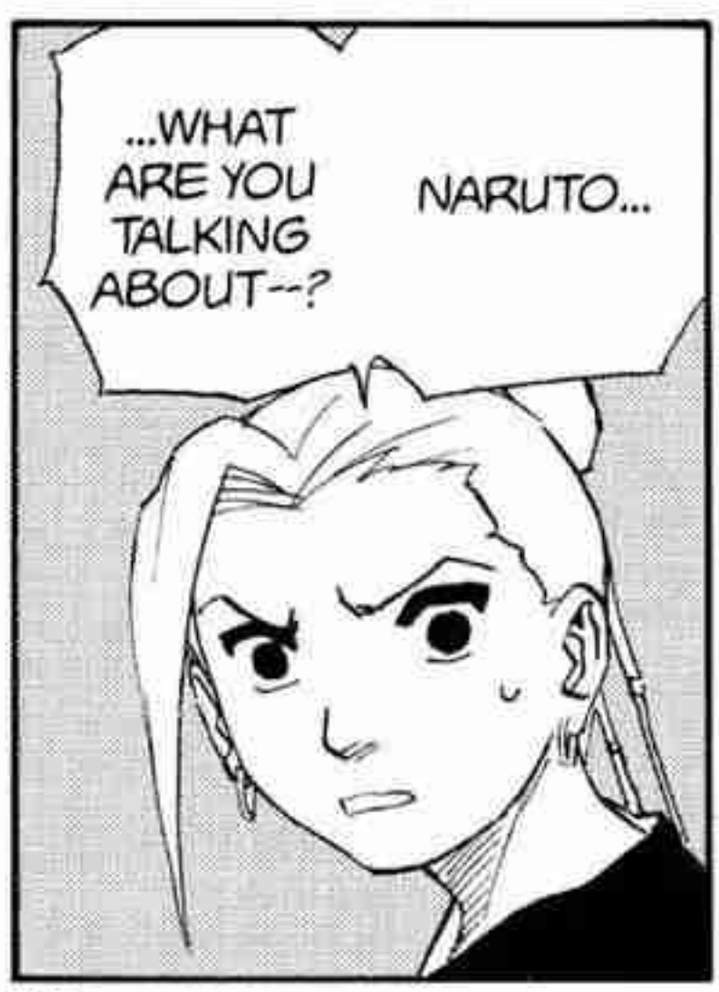
WHAT'S UP?
YO!

MUF
MUF
MUF
MUF

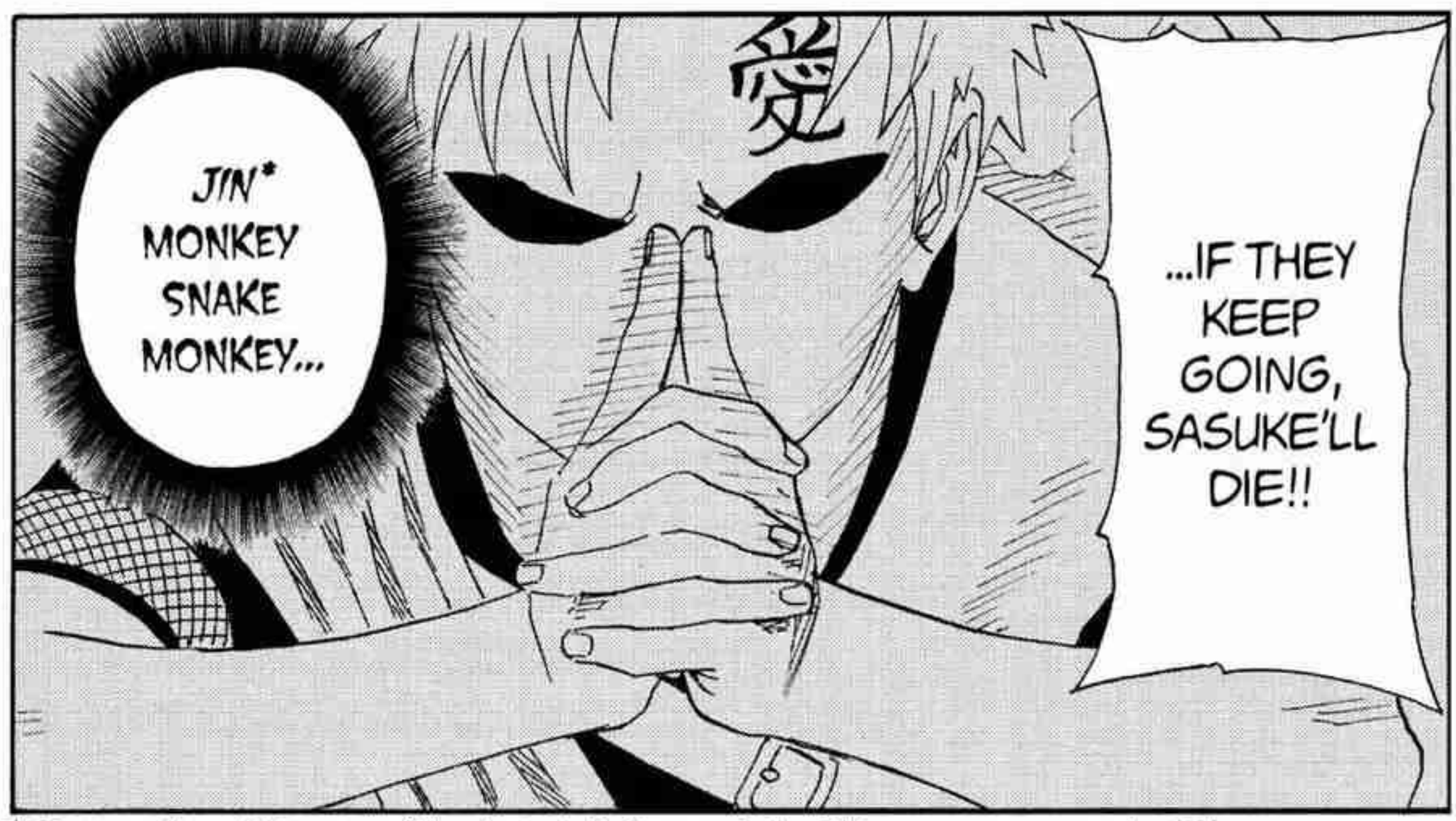
PLEASE STOP THIS MATCH RIGHT AWAY!
MASTER!

!!

!


...WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT--?
NARUTO...

HE'S NOT NORMAL!
HE'S COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM THE REST OF US!



* *Jin* means Yang Water, one of the elemental influences in the Chinese sexagenary cycle. -Ed.

...

MASTER KAKASHI!!

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT!
WELL!

THERE WAS A REASON...

!

SWIP
...WHY WE WERE SO LATE GETTING HERE!

THE WORLD OF KISHIMOTO MASASHI
MY PERSONAL HISTORY, PART 18

I DIDN'T WIN THE CONTEST, SO I ENDED UP SPENDING MY FIRST YEAR OF COLLEGE PRETTY DISGRUNTLED.

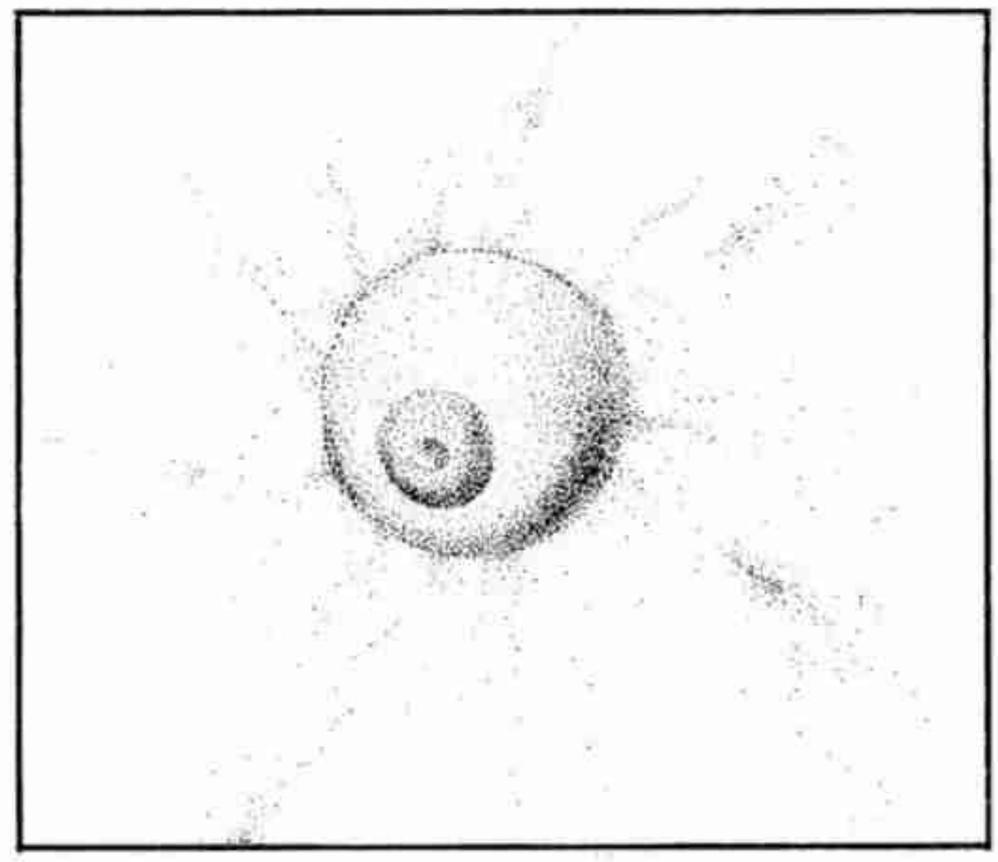
ONE DAY, SOMEONE APPROACHED ME SAYING "I DRAW MANGA TOO" AND PROFFERED THIS: "IF YOU'LL DRAW MANGA FOR MY NEW COLLECTION, I'LL PAY YOU." "WELL, IF I CAN GET MONEY FOR MY OWN PIECE, MIGHT AS WELL," I THOUGHT, SO I QUICKLY PUT TOGETHER ROUGHLY EIGHT PAGES OF A RANDOM STAND-ALONE SHORT AND GAVE IT TO HIM. HE WAS PUTTING TOGETHER A DÔJINSHI [SELF-PUBLISHED WORK] WITH ABOUT FIVE PEOPLE IN TOTAL, AND HAD COME TO COMMISSION ME TO BE ONE OF THE FIVE, HAVING HEARD A RUMOR THAT I DREW MANGA. SINCE THE DEAL WAS THAT I WOULD GET AN EQUAL SHARE OF THE PROFIT, I PLEASANTLY LOOKED FORWARD TO THE BOOK'S COMPLETION. BUT NO MATTER HOW LONG I WAITED, NO BOOK!

AFTER I HAD WAITED A LONG WHILE, I ASKED THE FELLOW "SO WHEN IS THE BOOK COMING OUT?" BUT HE ANSWERED, "THREE OTHER MANGA, INCLUDING MY OWN, ARE STILL NOT DONE..." I REALLY WANTED TO SHOUT BACK, "HOW CAN IT TAKE YOU MORE THAN FOUR MONTHS TO COMPLETE EIGHT PAGES!" BUT INSTEAD I JUST MUTTERED "AH, I SEE" AND ENTERED A STATE OF RESIGNATION. THE NEXT TIME I SAW HIM HE HAD HIS BACK TO ME, FURIOUSLY PLAYING VIDEO GAMES AT THE ARCADE. THAT'S WHEN IT FINALLY HIT ME (AAH! HE'S A SHAM MANGA ARTIST).

HOWEVER, THIS WORLD IS NOT MADE UP OF JUST SHAM MANGA ARTISTS! A CERTAIN PAIR OF SENPAI [UPPERCLASSMEN] WOULD END UP TRANSFORMING MY DISGRUNTLED LIFE WHEN I ENTERED MY SECOND YEAR OF COLLEGE! THOSE TWO COMPETED AGAINST EACH OTHER, COLLECTING NEWCOMER AWARDS LEFT AND RIGHT, AND WERE VETERANS ENOUGH TO ALREADY HAVE ASSIGNED EDITORS, EVEN CUTTING BACK ON SLEEP TO INCREASE THEIR TIME SPENT DRAWING MANGA. "YES! FINALLY, I'VE MET GENUINE MANGA ARTISTS!" I JOYFULLY SAID TO MYSELF, FREQUENTLY RUNNING OVER TO MY SENPAI'S HOUSES TO HANG OUT AND LEARN ALL ABOUT MANGA PRODUCTION! THEY WERE ALSO WILLING TO READ MY MANGA AND GIVE ME ALL SORTS OF CRITIQUES SO THAT MY SKILLS WERE HONED! I AM SO ETERNALLY GRATEFUL TO THOSE TWO. EVEN NOW, THEY LET ME CALL THEM ON OCCASION... HOWEVER, I FEEL BAD ABOUT BOTHERING THEM, SO IT'S STILL HARD FOR ME TO PICK UP THE PHONE. FOR THEY'RE BOTH SLEEP-DEPRIVED PROFESSIONAL MANGA ARTISTS LEADING IRREGULAR LIVES!

Number 113:

The Reason He Was Late...!! zz



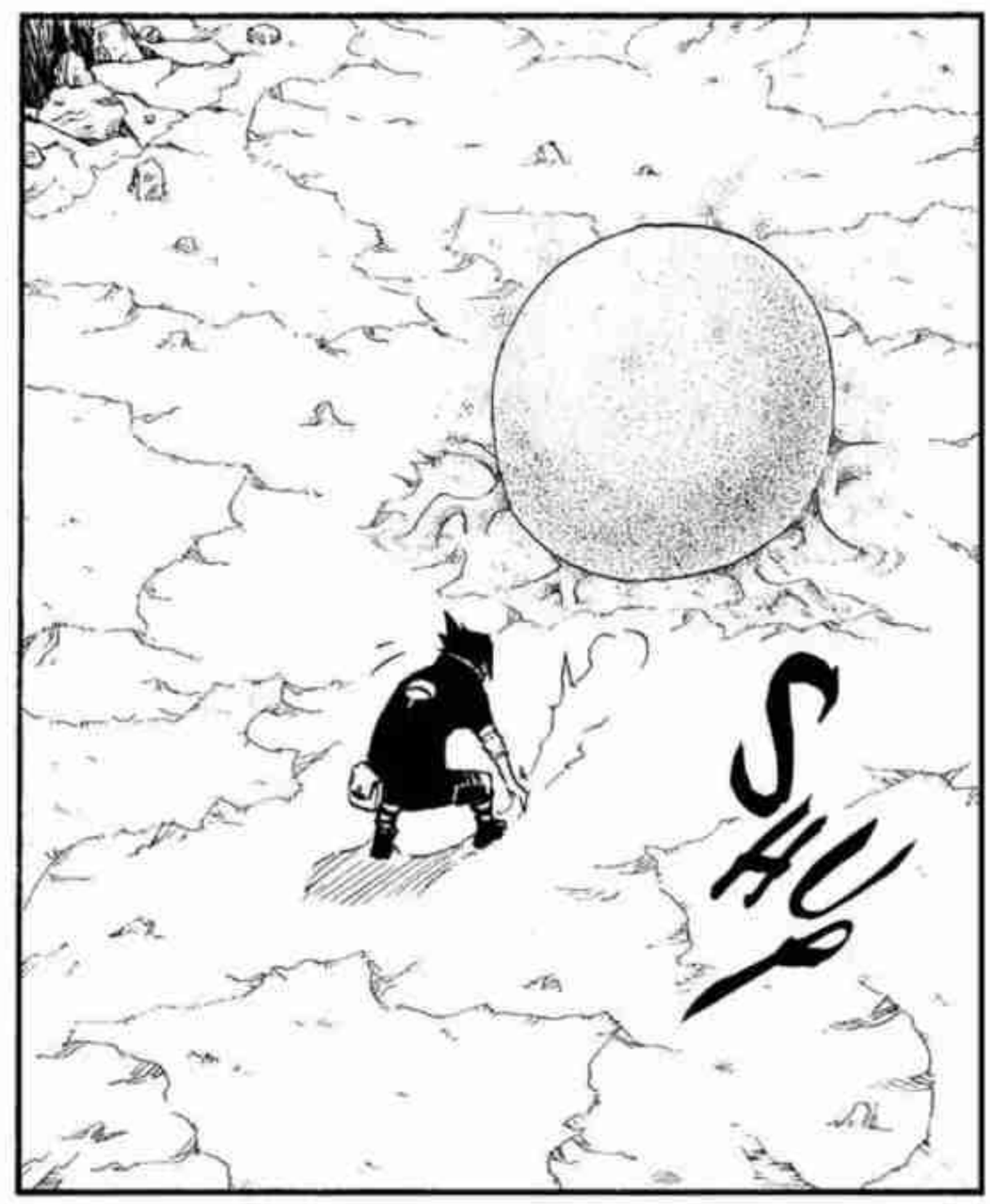
SWAL
ZAA

JIN
MONKEY
BIRD
DRAGON...

FU
WAP

SHINN

...JUST AS I FIGURED...
IT'S NO GOOD...


SHUP

!

....IT'S FINE BY ME. THIS THING OF MINE...
HE'S SHUT HIMSELF INSIDE... I DON'T KNOW WHAT HE'S UP TO, BUT...

RAT MONKEY JIN RAT RABBIT TIGER BIRD JIN...
MUTTER
MUTTER

...IS GOING TO TAKE TIME TOO...
CHAK

...MASTER.

HMM...?
YOU REALLY WANT TO KNOW?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY "THERE WAS A REASON WE WERE SO LATE GETTING HERE"?!

JUST BE QUIET AND WATCH HIM...

I'M TELLING YOU, THIS ISN'T THE TIME TO BE CHATTING!!

!

!

!

YOU'LL BE SURPRISED.

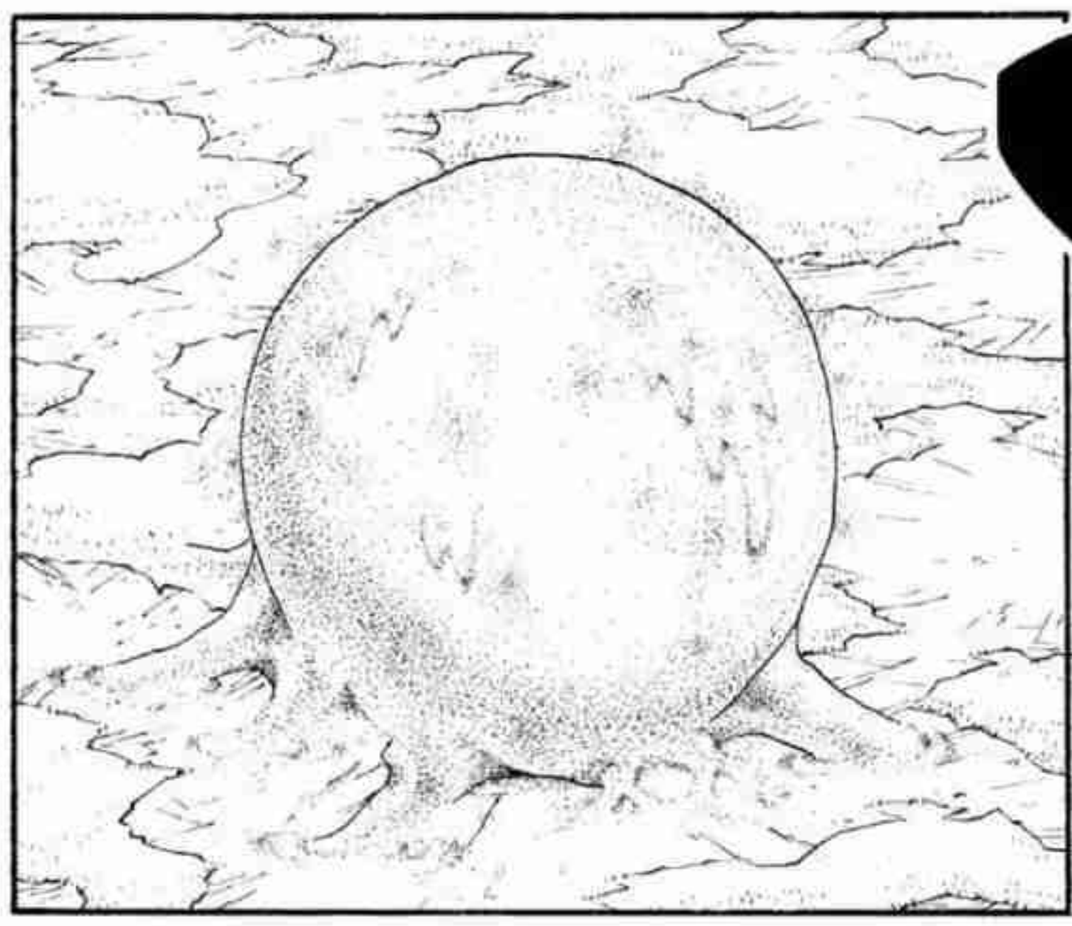
SKKSH

FWISH FWISH

GSSH

SHUS

TUNK

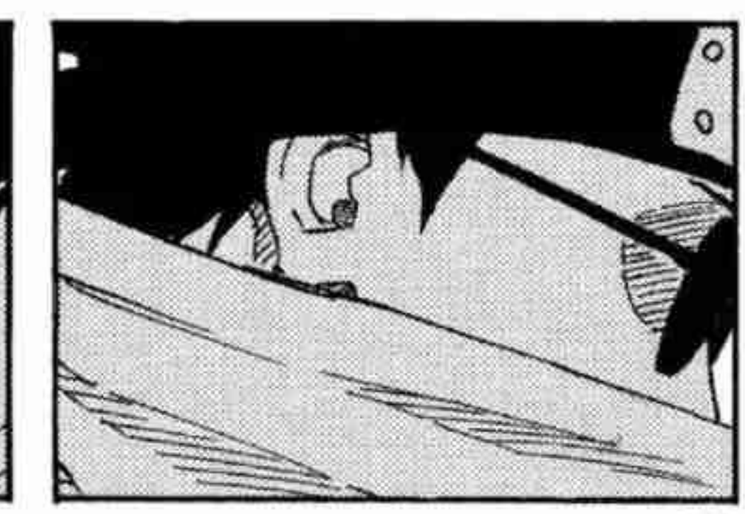


WE DON'T KNOW WHEN THEY'RE GOING TO GIVE THE SIGNAL!!
NO... GAARA, THAT FOOL...

SHU
NK

HEY... WE PROBABLY SHOULD GET AWAY FROM HERE...
NEVER MIND THE PLAN, IS HE GOING TO GO ON A RAMPAGE?! UGH, GAARA...
FEH... AT THIS POINT, THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO.

...PLAN...?



SIZZ
FOOOSH

...IS BECAUSE HE'S...

THE REASON I TOOK SASUKE UNDER MY WING...

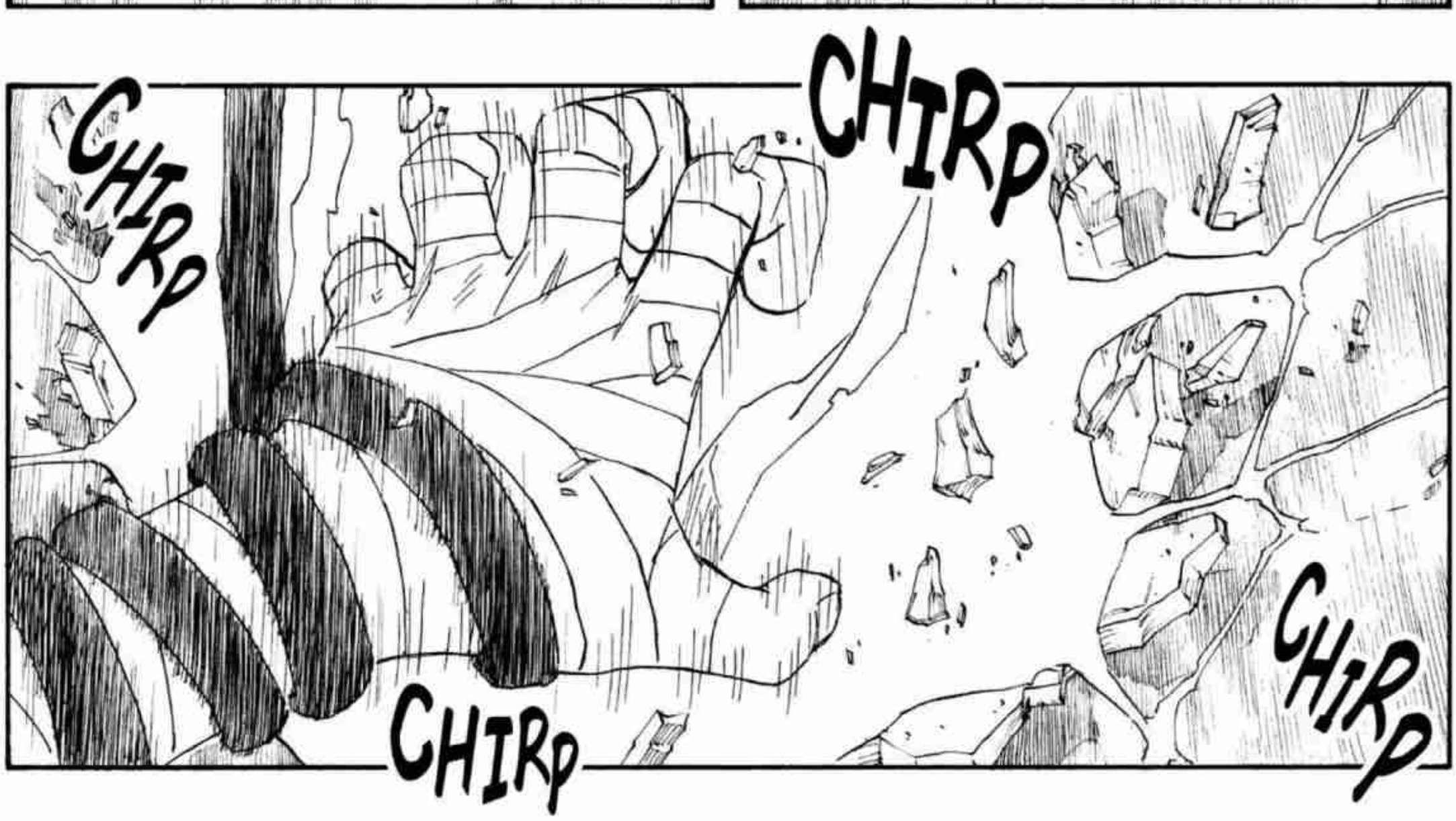
!
D-DON'T TELL ME THAT'S...

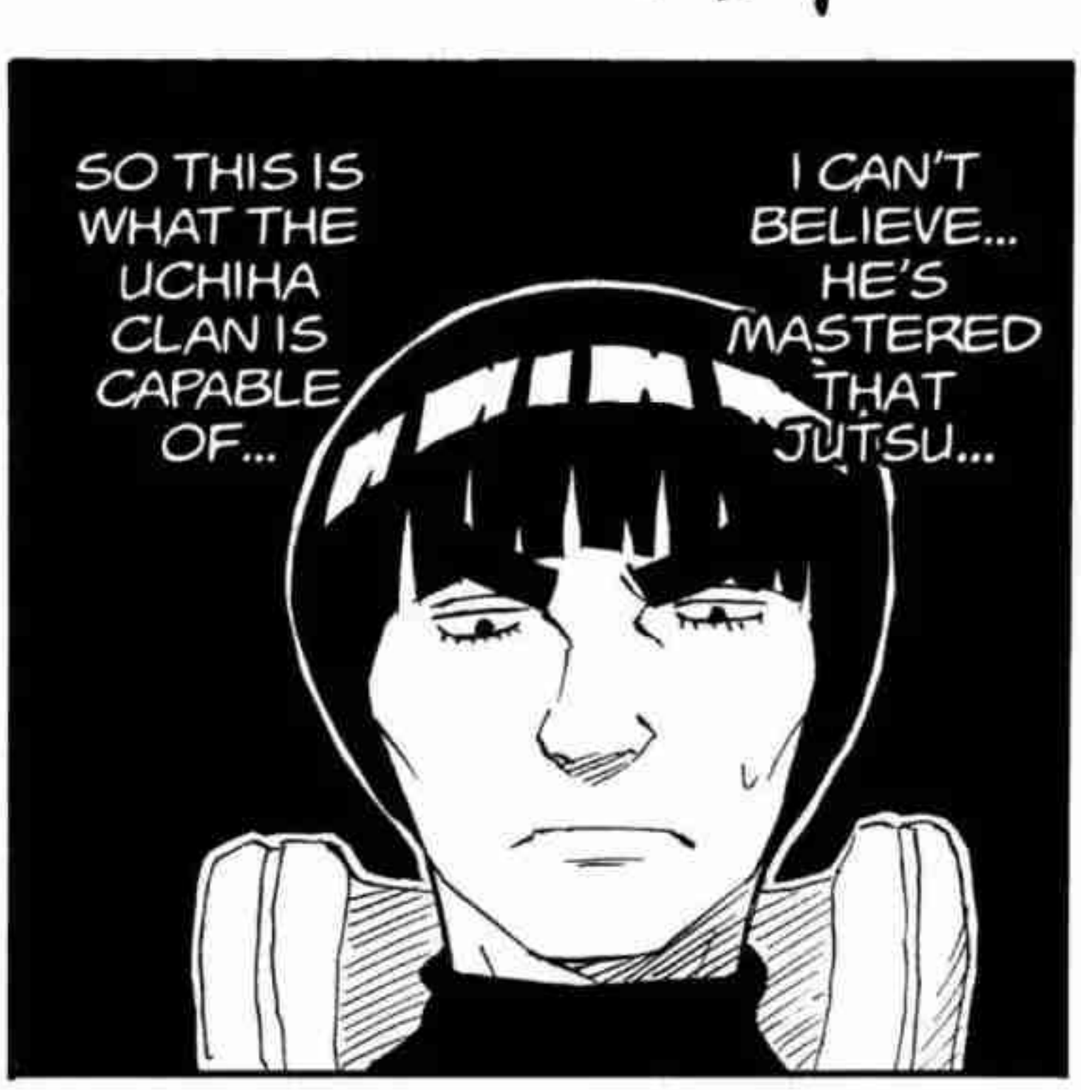
...VERY SIMILAR TO ME.
ドスッ
ドクン

READ THIS WAY
CHIRP
CHIRP
CHIRP
CHIRP
CHIRP
CHIRP
FLESH ACTIVATION?!
YUP!
...AND INCREASE HIS SPEED SO MUCH...!
I SEE, SO THAT'S WHY YOU HAD HIM FOCUS ON TAIJUTSU...

CHIRP

CHIRP
CHIRP


CHIRP
CHIRP
CHIRP
CHIRP


SO THIS IS WHAT THE UCHIHA CLAN IS CAPABLE OF...
I CAN'T BELIEVE... HE'S MASTERED THAT JUTSU...

W-WOW... I CAN TOTALLY SEE HIS CHAKRA... WHAT IN THE WORLD IS THAT ABOUT?!

I'M GOING TO TEAR HIS HEAD OFF...

UH-HUH ...

...AND I'LL GIVE IT ALL TO YOU.

IF I DO THAT, HE'LL BLEED A LOT...

HUH? HIS HEAD, I SAID...

...AND CRACK IT OPEN AND SPILL HIS BRAINS.

I'M ALWAYS A GOOD BOY...

HEH HEH!

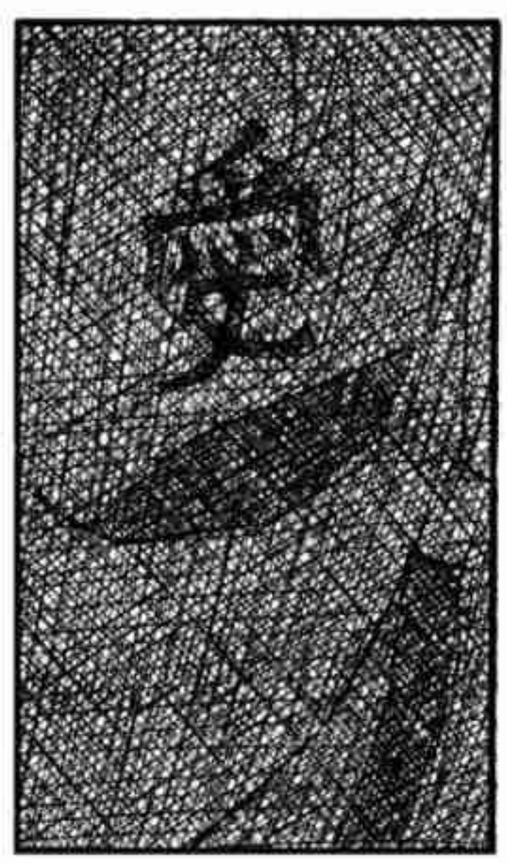
I'LL WATCH.

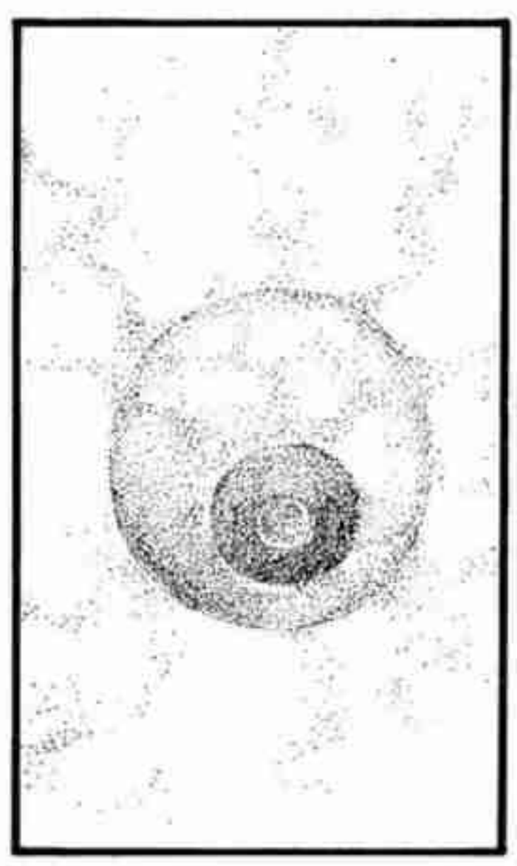
UH-HUH. LET'S DO IT! MOTHER...

TOOM

THUD

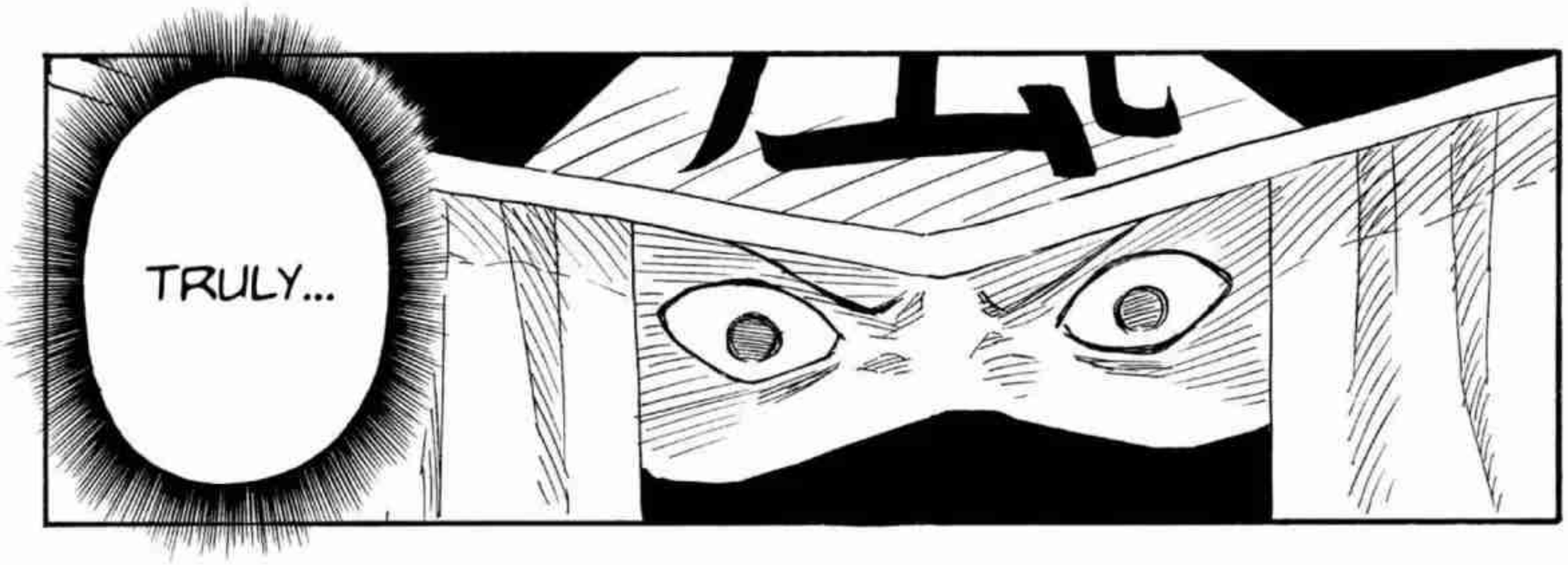
THUD

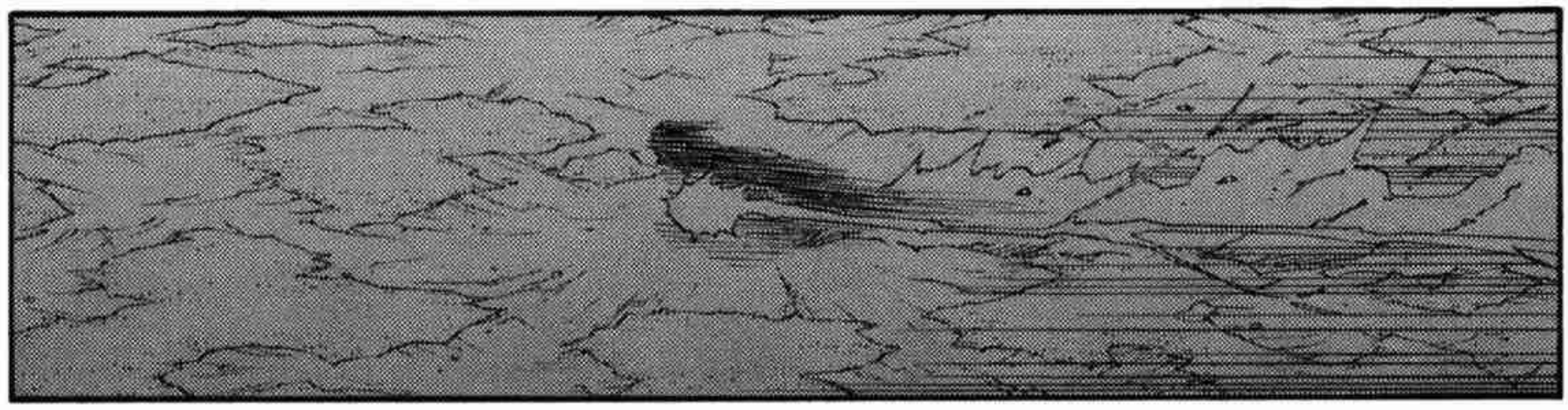


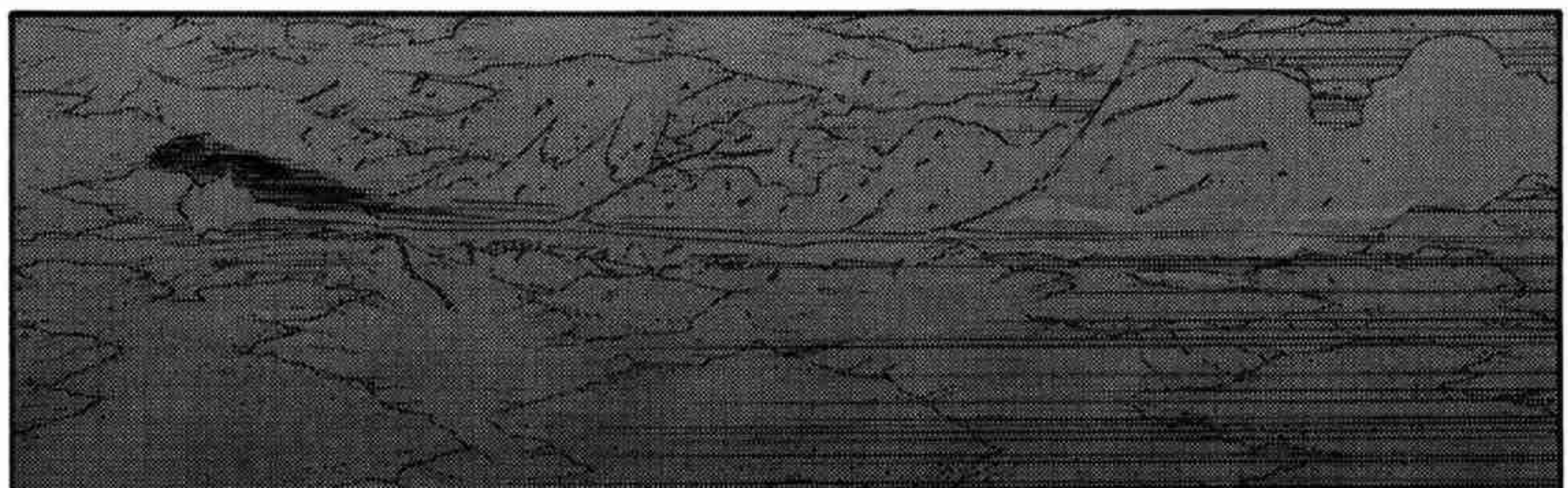


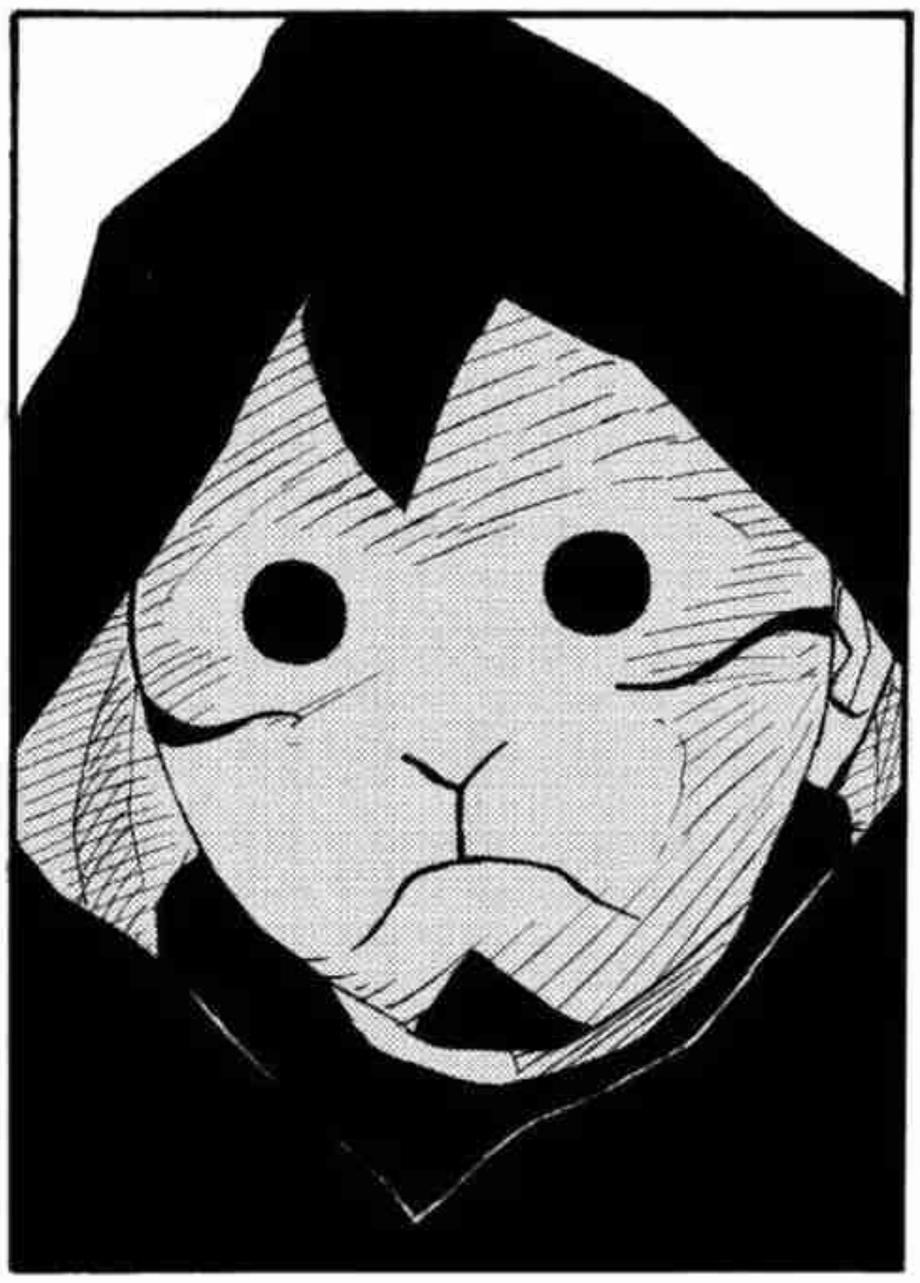
WHAT IS THAT...?!
WH-WHAT THE...?!

ZHOOM


TRULY...

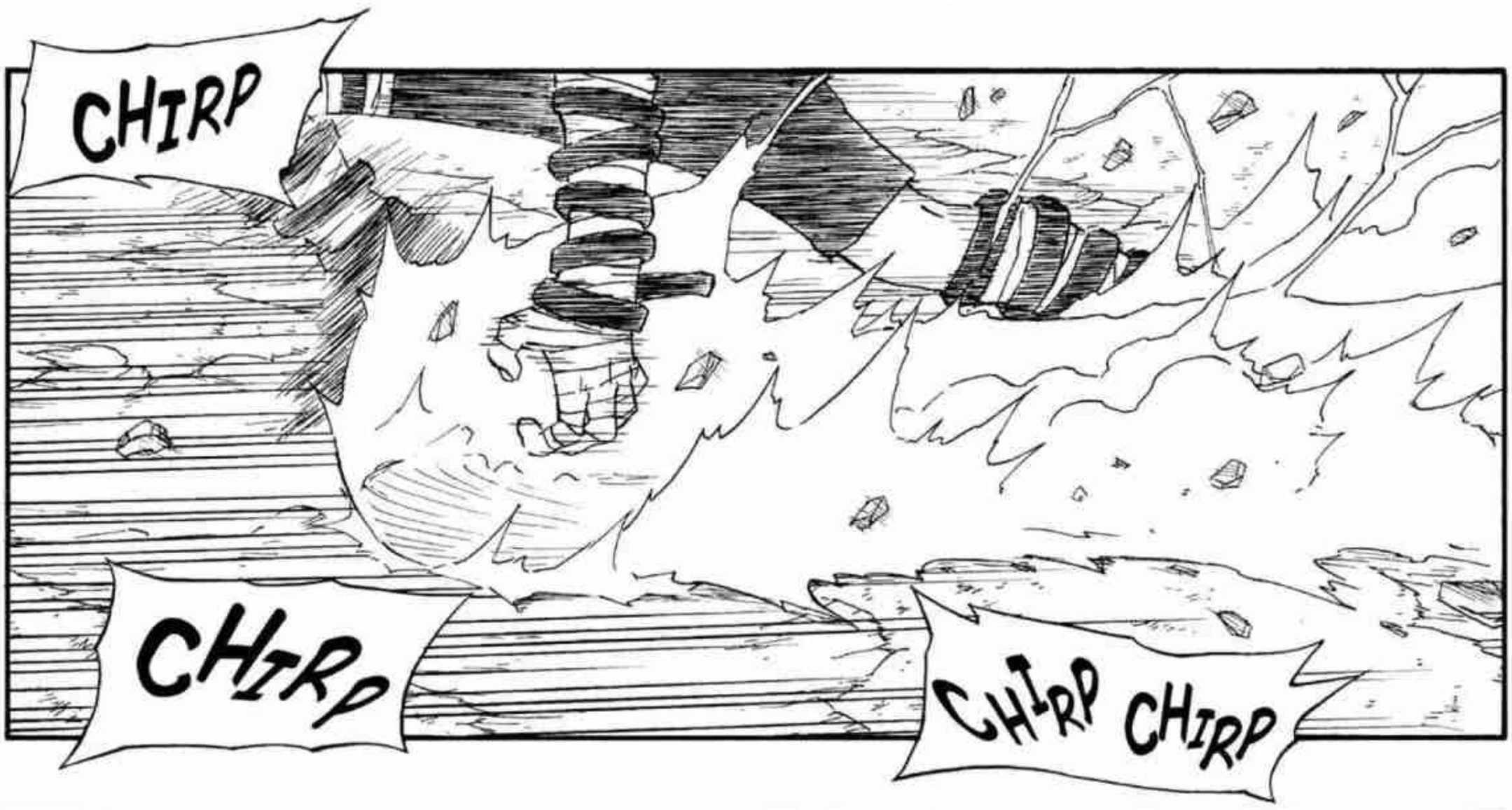




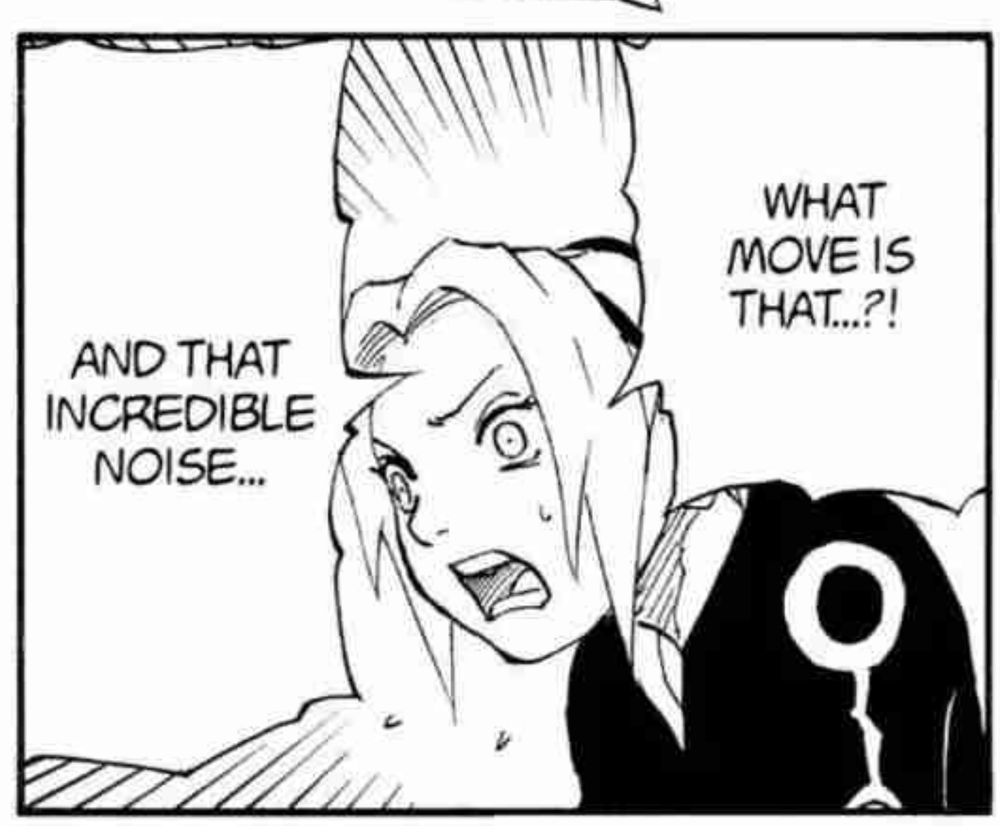


SWAY...

SLUMP

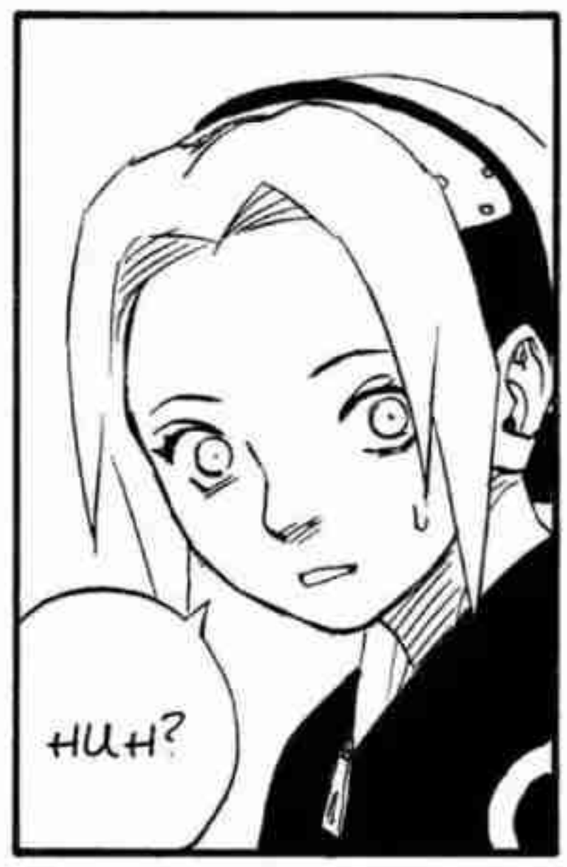

CHIRP
CHIRP
CHIRP CHIRP

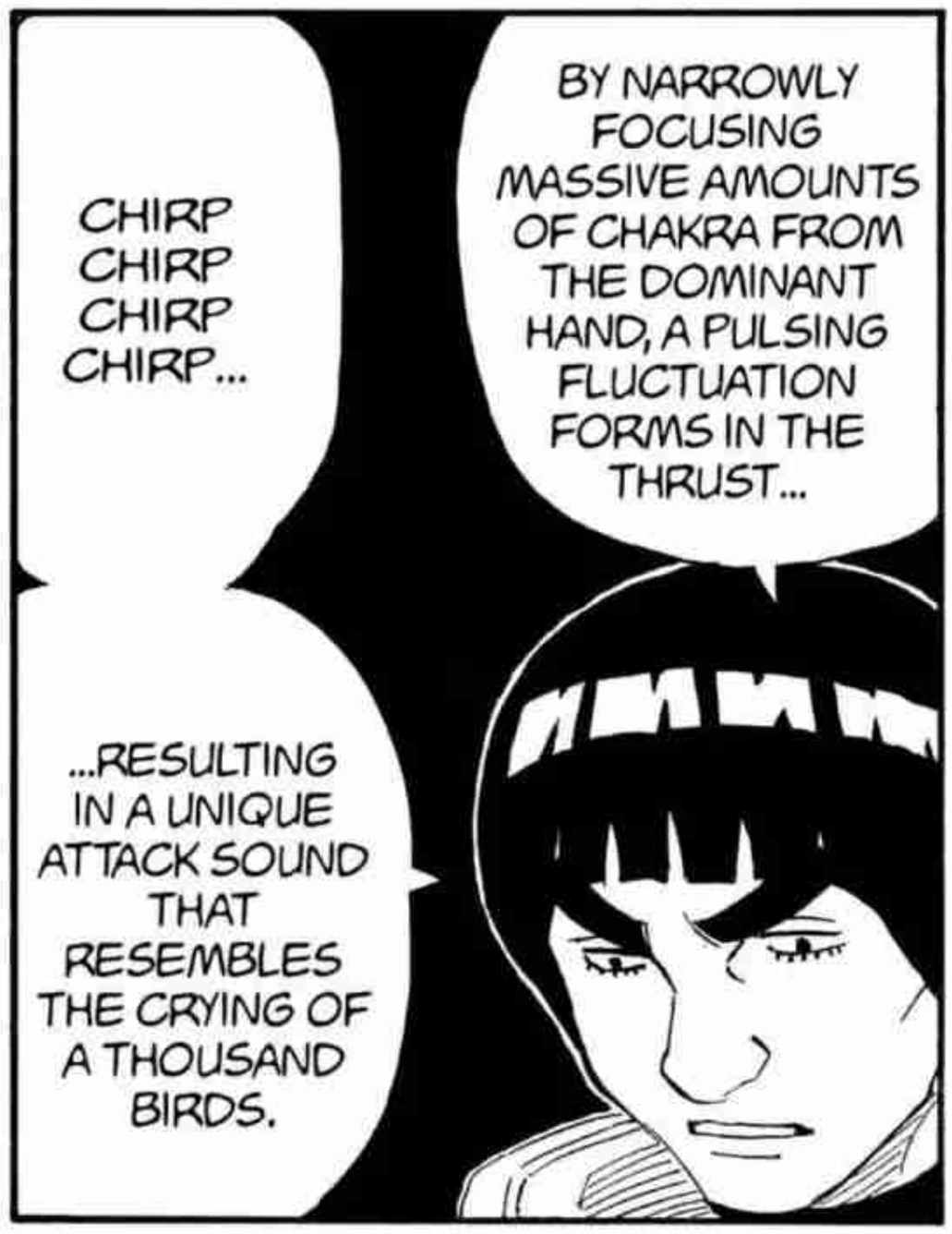
IT'S JUST A HAND CHOP...


AND THAT INCREDIBLE NOISE...
WHAT MOVE IS THAT...?!

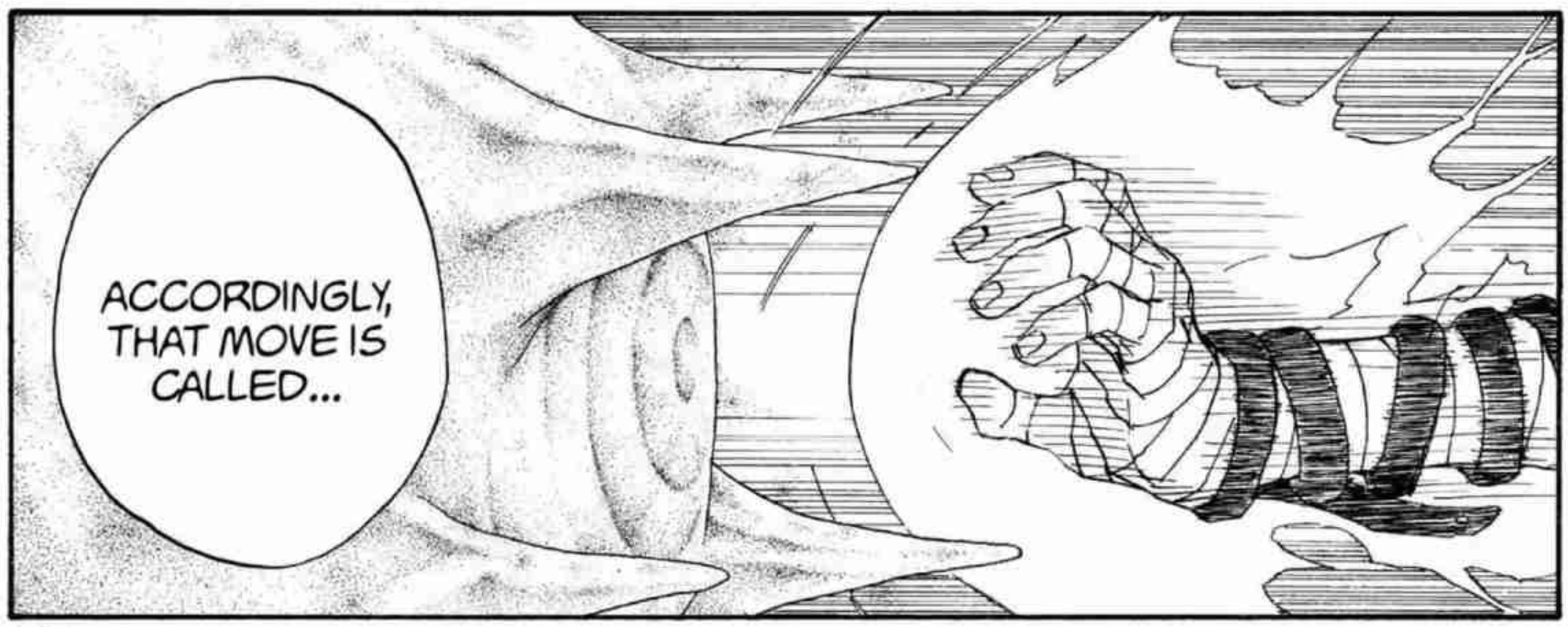
?!

HOWEVER, IT'S A UNIQUE ORIGINAL MOVE...
...CRAFTED BY KONOHA'S TOP JUTSU MASTER, COPY NINJA KAKASHI.

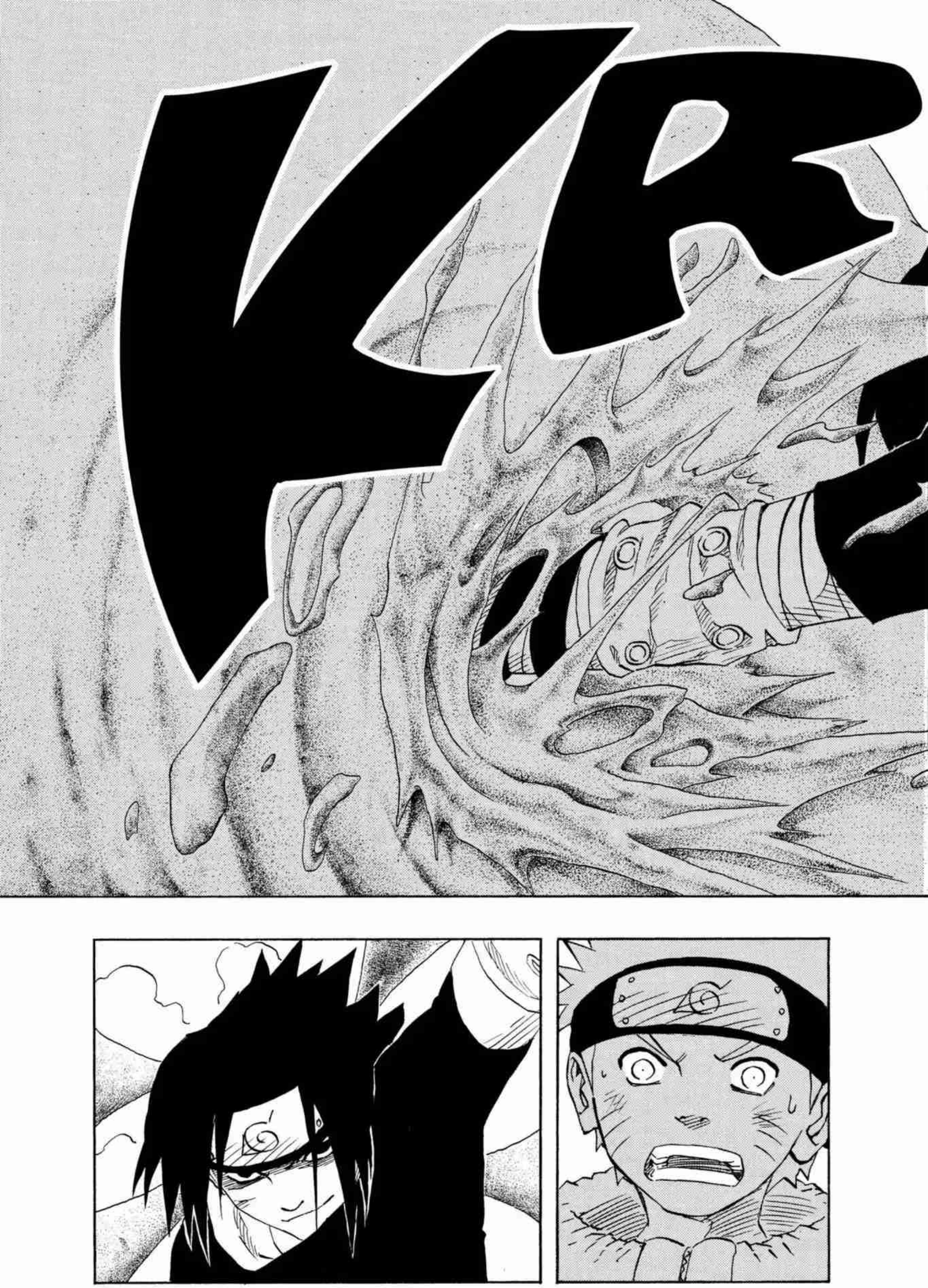

HUH?


CHIRP CHIRP CHIRP CHIRP...
BY NARROWLY FOCUSING MASSIVE AMOUNTS OF CHAKRA FROM THE DOMINANT HAND, A PULSING FLUCTUATION FORMS IN THE THRUST...
...RESULTING IN A UNIQUE ATTACK SOUND THAT RESEMBLES THE CRYING OF A THOUSAND BIRDS.

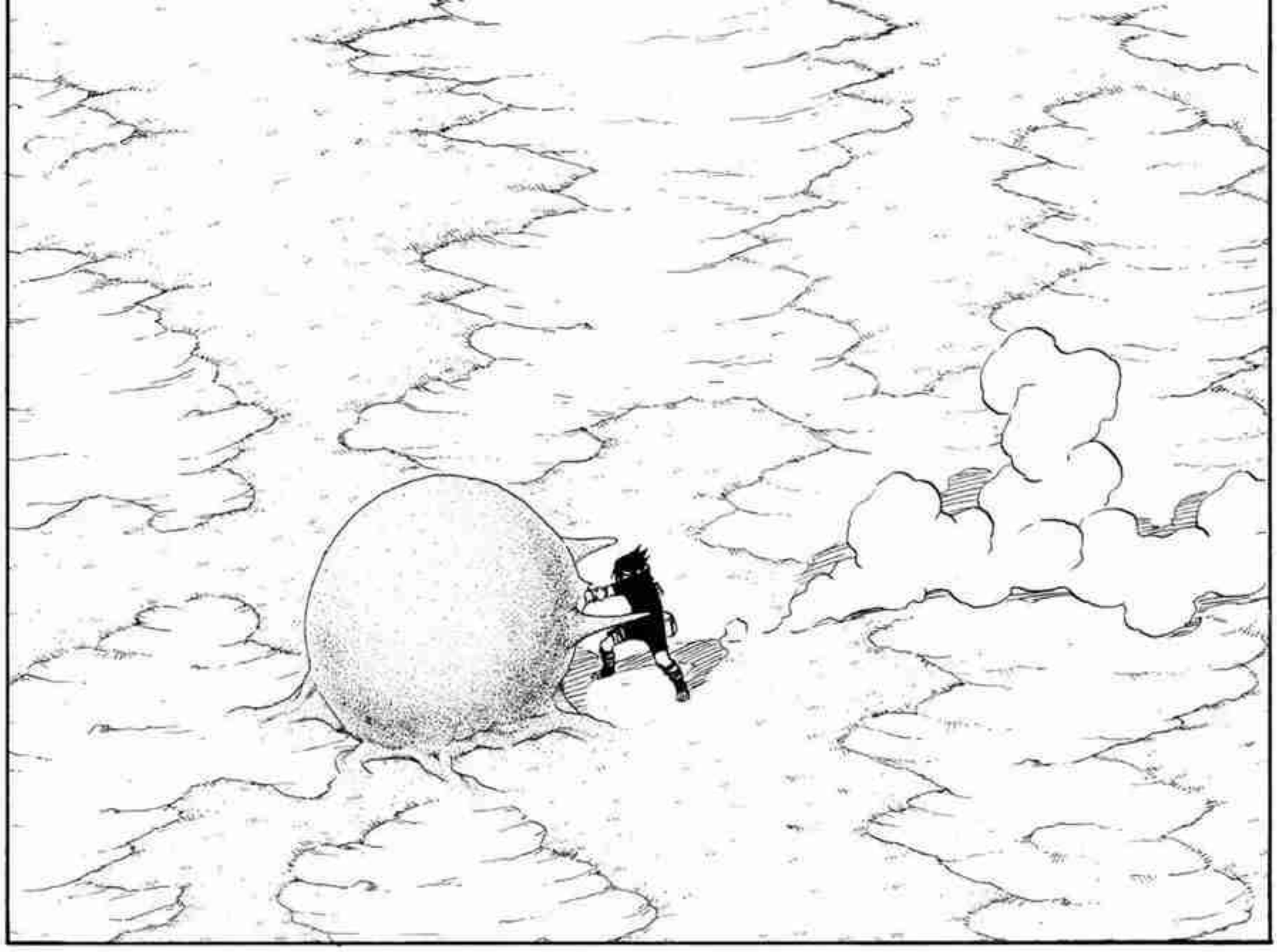
IT'S A MOVE RESERVED FOR ASSASSI-NATION...
...AND THE IMMENSE CHAKRA PRODUCED BY SUPER-ACTIVATING ONE'S FLESH.
THE SECRET IS IN THE SPEED OF THE THRUST...


ACCORDINGLY, THAT MOVE IS CALLED...

CHIDORI 1000 BIRDS!!!



Number 114:



NOT POSSIBLE ...

IT CAN'T BE...

HE COULDN'T HAVE PENETRATED GAARA'S "ABSOLUTE DEFENSE"!!
YOU MUST BE JOKING...!

THAT IS KAKASHI'S...

...AMAZING!!
風

ALSO KNOWN AS RAIKIRI-- LIGHTNING BLADE.
...CHIDORI.

...IS ITS NICKNAME, BECAUSE KAKASHI ONCE SLICED LIGHTNING USING THIS JUTSU.
THE LIGHTNING BLADE...

LIGHTNING BLADE...?

ITS FORMAL JUTSU NAME IS CHIDORI, AND ITS SECRETS LIE IN THE ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE SPEED OF ITS STROKE AND THE IMMENSE CHAKRA FOCUSED IN THE ARM...
W-WOW...
SOUNDS SO HOKEY...
HUH? SLICED LIGHTNING...? WHAT?!

LIKE YOU REALLY HAVE THE RIGHT TO CRITICIZE ME...
RIGHT, LEE?!
BUT... HOW COULD YOU HAVE TAUGHT HIM SUCH A RECKLESS MOVE...?

...THAT TRANSFORMS IT INTO A BLADE THAT CAN CUT THROUGH ANYTHING.

...EITHER WAY, IT'S AN INCREDIBLE MOVE...!!
THIS IS ALL KIND OF BEYOND THE LIMIT OF MY COMPRE-HENSION, BUT...

...

...AND I DON'T HAVE THE EYE TO PERCEIVE AND SEE THROUGH THAT COUNTER...
A BEELINE ATTACK IS EASY TO COUNTER OR AVOID...

I UNDERSTAND... IF THAT HAD BEEN ME, I WOULDN'T HAVE LAUNCHED A HEAD-ON FULL-SPEED ATTACK ON MY OPPONENT LIKE THAT...
OR RATHER, I COULDN'T HAVE!!

READ THIS WAY
... "IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT YOUR EYE CAN SEE IF YOUR BODY'S TOO WEAK TO ACT!" I WAS BASKING IN A SENSE OF SUPERIORITY BACK THEN.
ONCE, WHEN WE FACED OFF AGAINST EACH OTHER, I SAID TO YOU THAT...
I TRULY ENVY YOUR GENES...
...SASUKE!
YOU'VE ATTAINED A HIGH-SPEED BODY JUST LIKE MINE...
CLENCH
BUT NOW...
GOTCHA!
AND YOU POSSESS THE SHARINGAN AS WELL...!!

HUH... YOU WERE SO WORRIED ABOUT SASUKE EARLIER...
AND NOW, YOU'RE JEALOUS OF HIM...

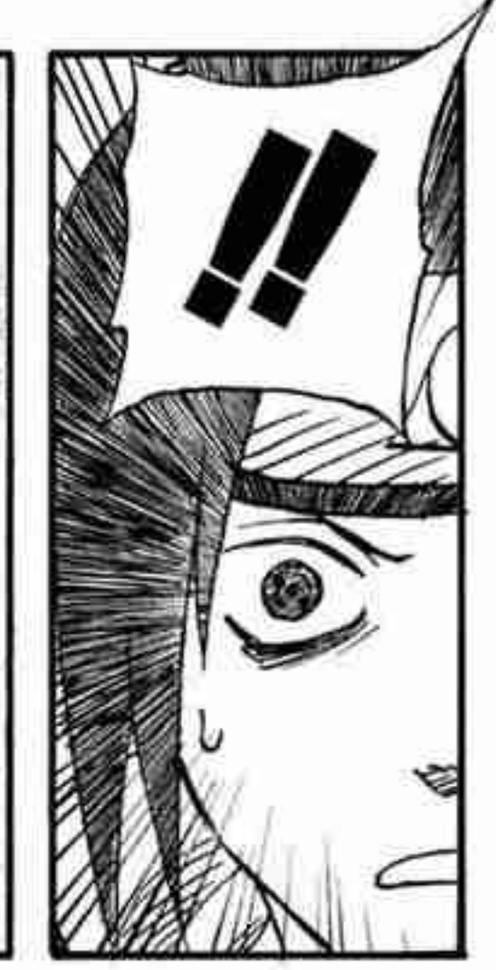
!

MOTHER... WHAT HAPPENED...?

...IS THIS... WARM MOIST-NESS...?
WHAT...

SPLISH

THROB
UGH...!


!!

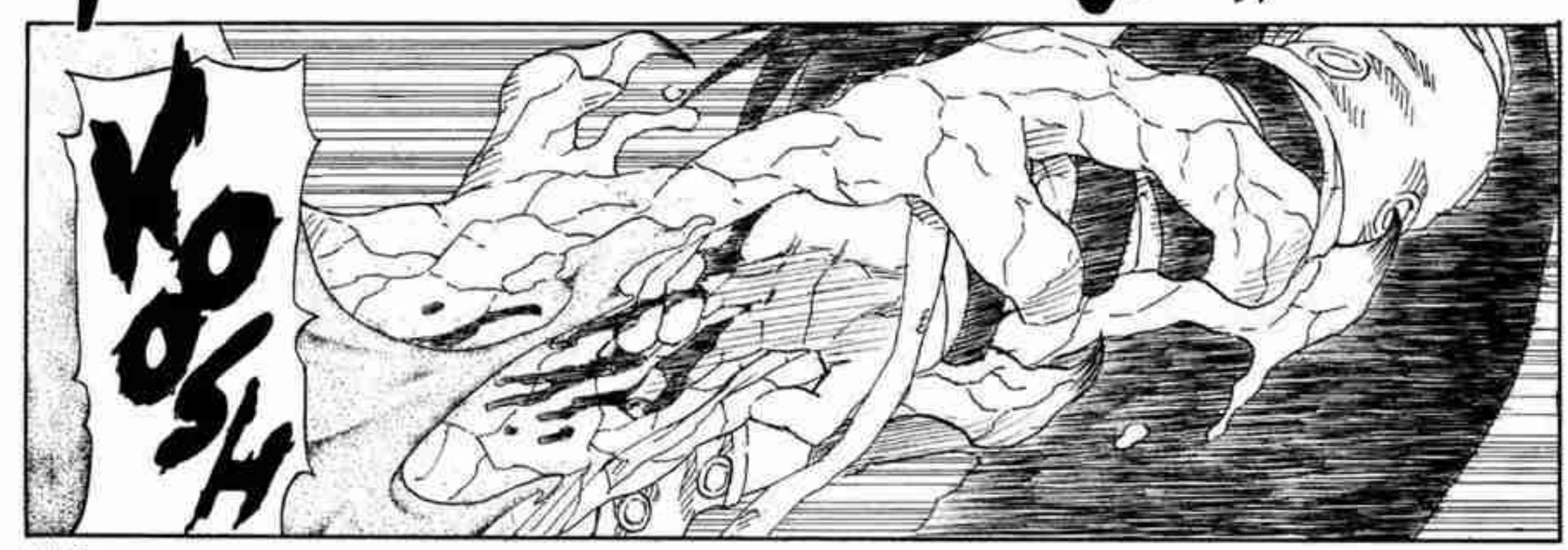
GSSSH

GRRRR...!
KSSH
KSSH

GH!!
HAH!!

STUNK

...GAARA'S... BEEN WOUNDED?!
D-DON'T TELL ME...

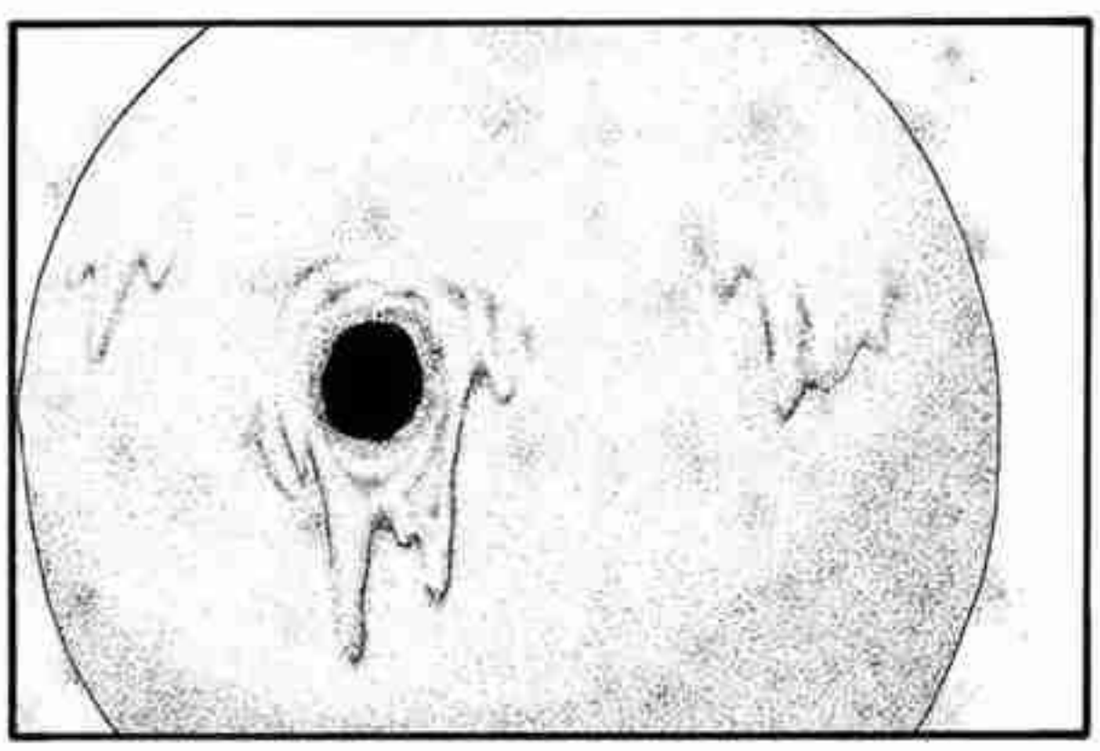


UGH!
THUM
THAT'S ITS ARM...!!
!!
FWAK
SKKSH
SHLUP
IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S INJURED. NOTHING LIKE THIS HAS EVER HAPPENED BEFORE...
I DON'T KNOW...?
DID HE MORPH INTO THE PERFECT POSSESSION FORM?!
!!
WHAT IS THAT?!

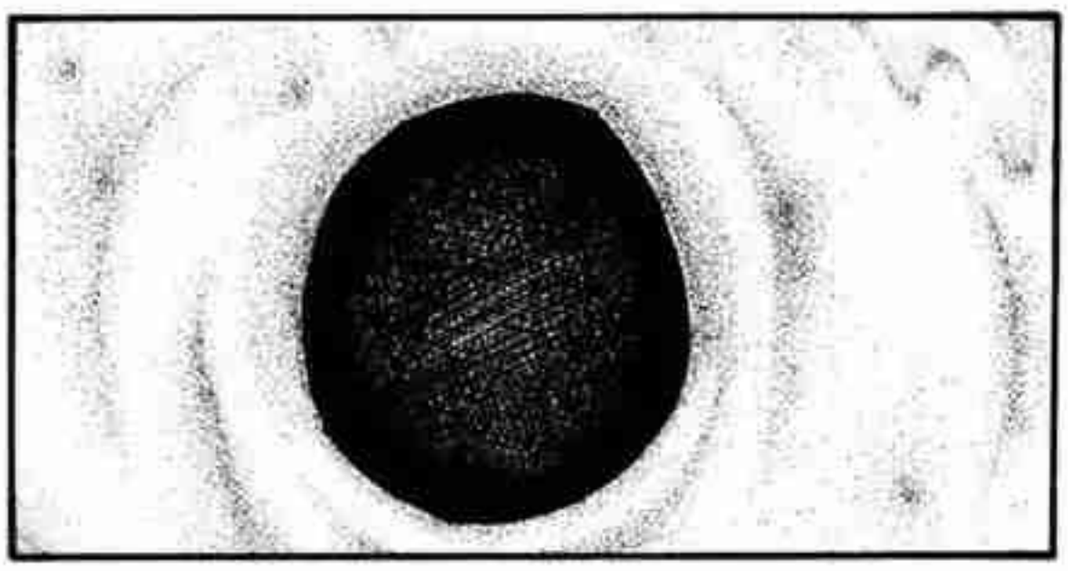
JUST THINKING ABOUT IT GIVES ME THE SHIVERS...
WHEN I SAW IT FOR THE FIRST TIME, I LOST MY APPETITE BECAUSE OF THE WAY IT LOOKS...

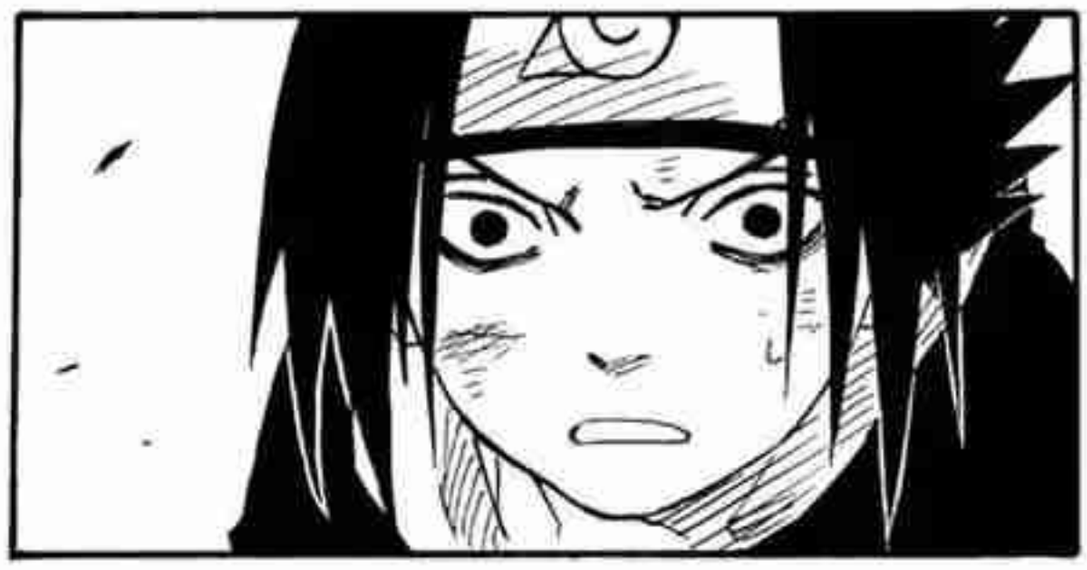
WHAT IS GOING ON INSIDE...?

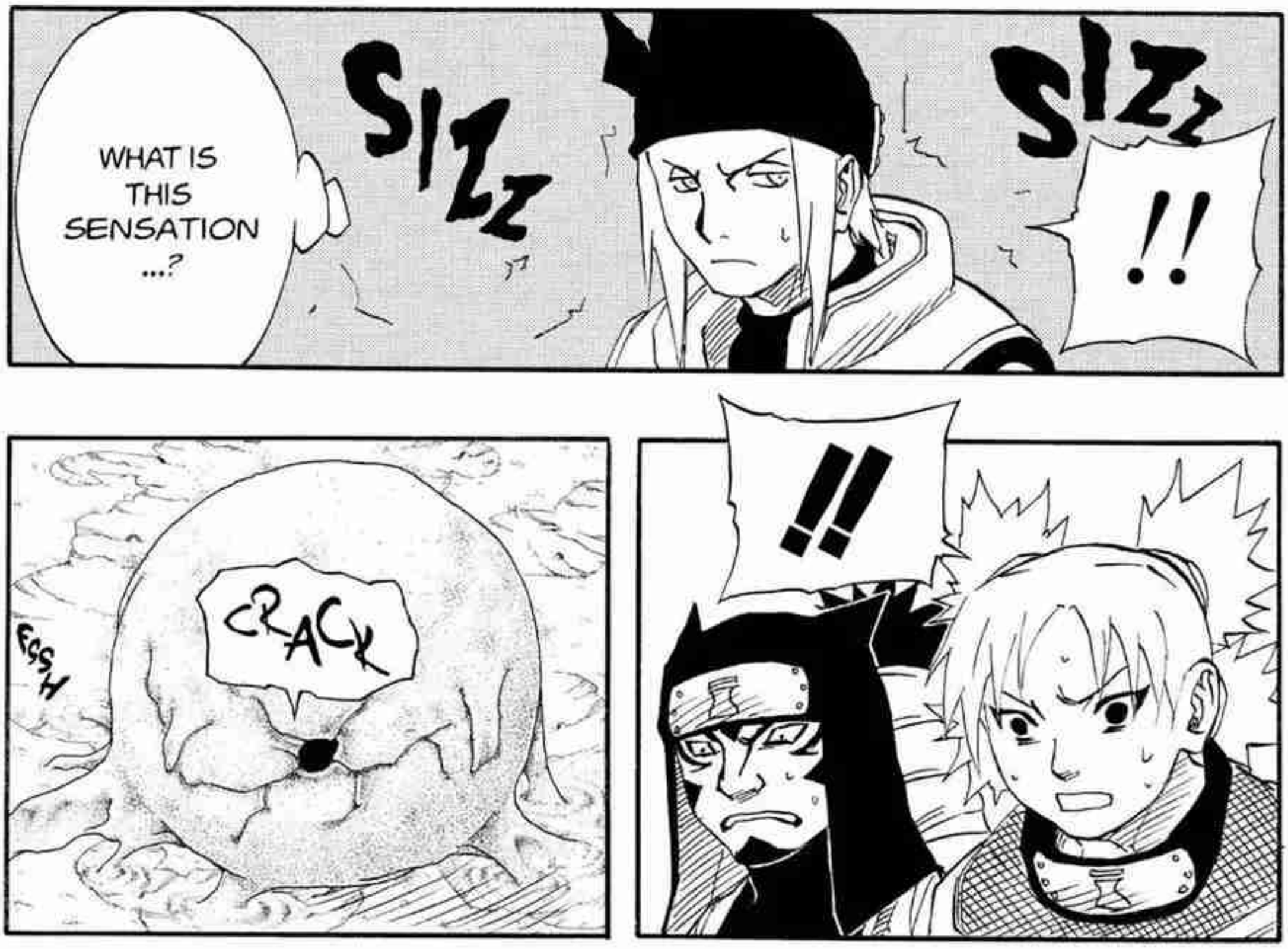
DARN... WHAT HAS HE GONE AND DONE NOW...

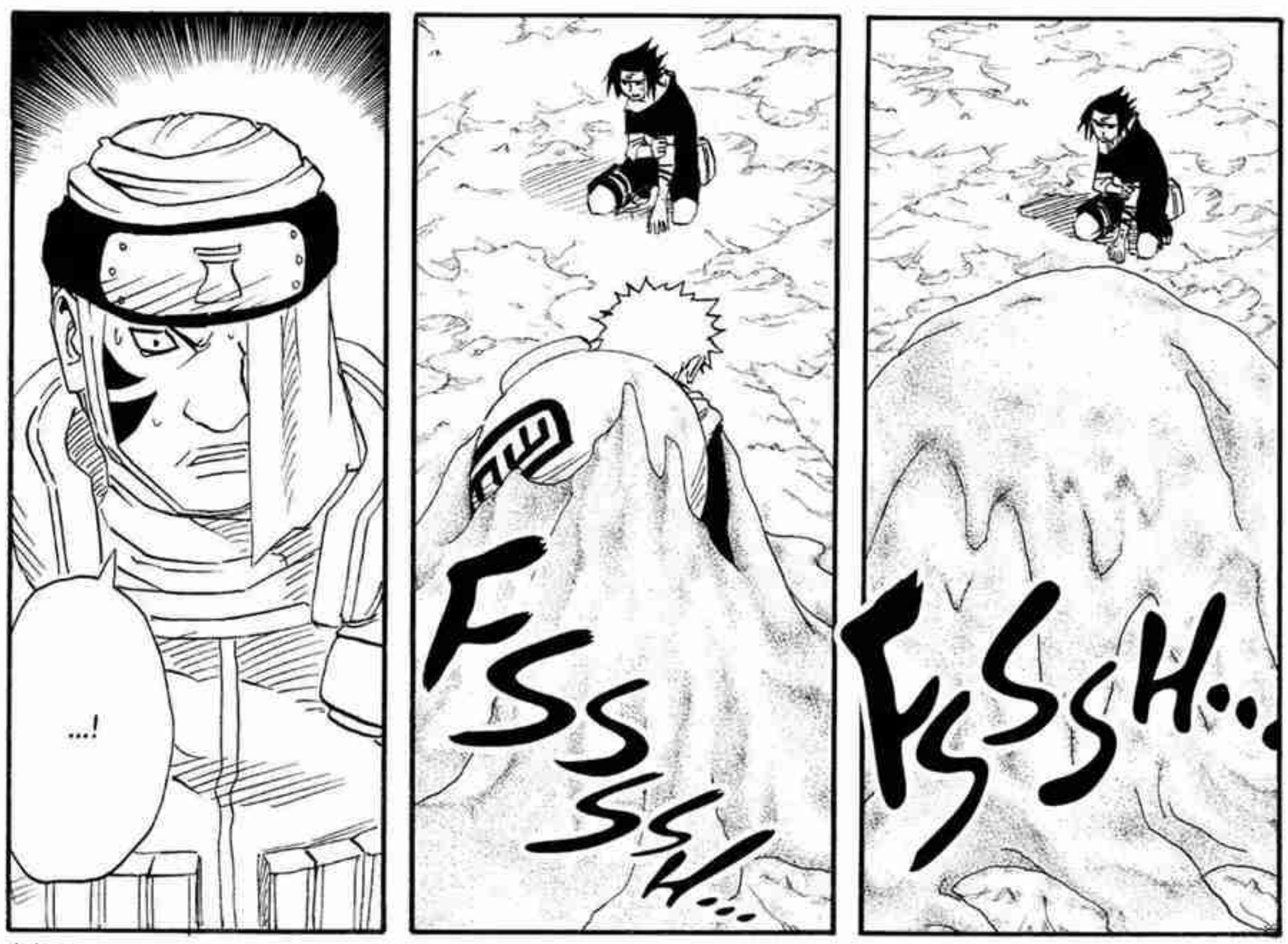


...!






WHAT IS THIS SENSATION ...?
SIZZ
SIZZ
!!
!!
CRACK
FSSH


...!
FSSSH...
FSSSH...

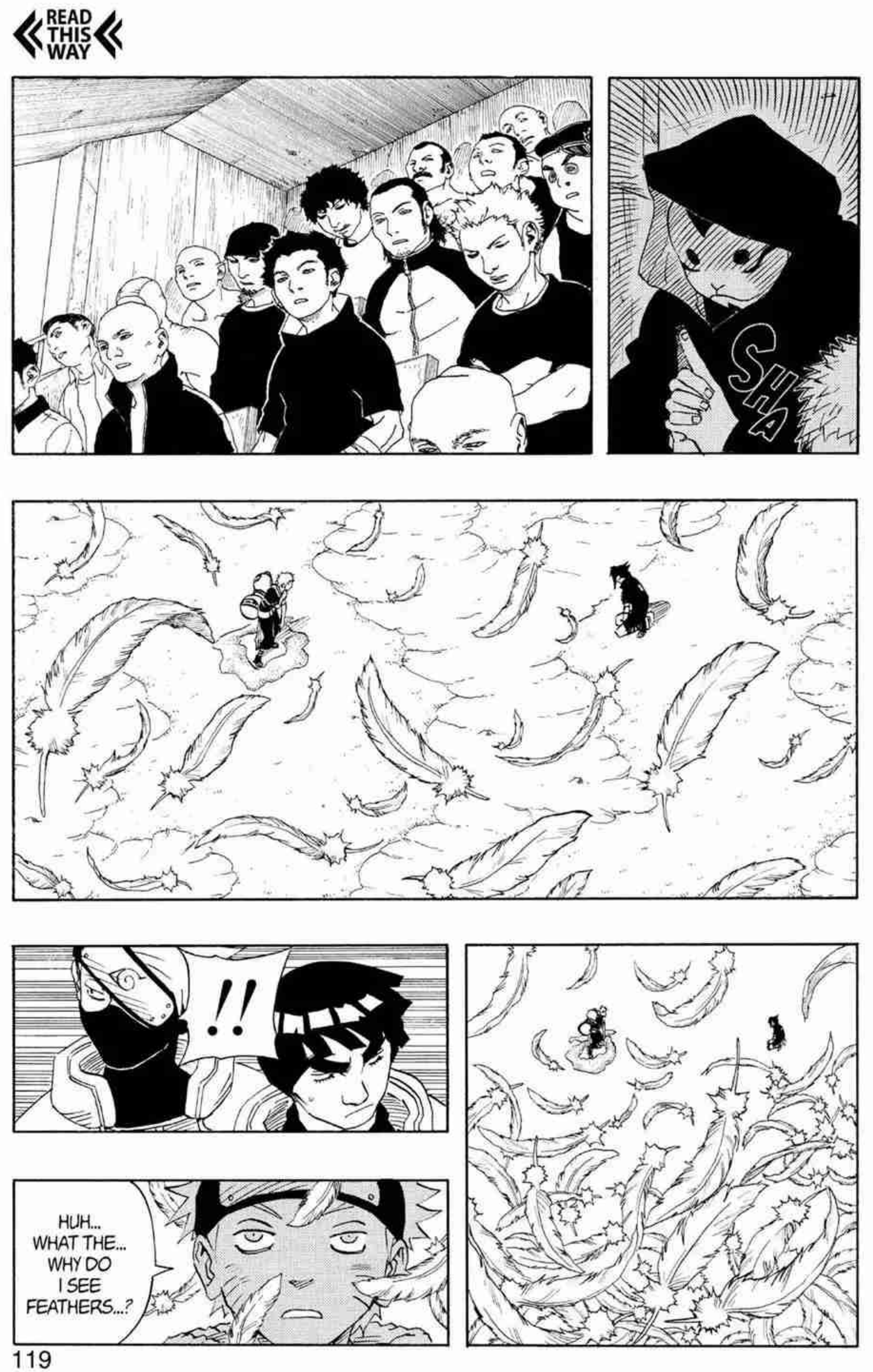
HUF
HUF

HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF
KSSH
SKKT

!!
HE IS INJURED...
HIS SHELL WAS BREACHED BEFORE HE COMPLETED TRANSFORMING!!

WH-WHAT WAS THAT... THAT I SAW EARLIER...?
NO... THOSE WEREN'T HIS EYES!

...?!


READ THIS WAY
SHA
!!
HUH... WHAT THE... WHY DO I SEE FEATHERS...?

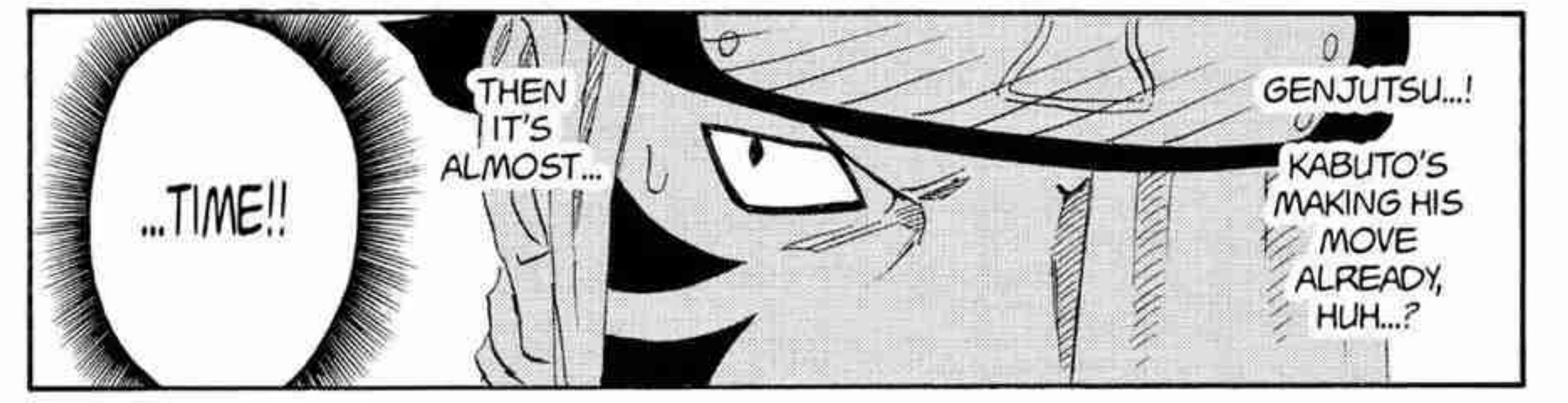
YEAH... GENJUTSU !!
KAKASHI! THIS IS...!

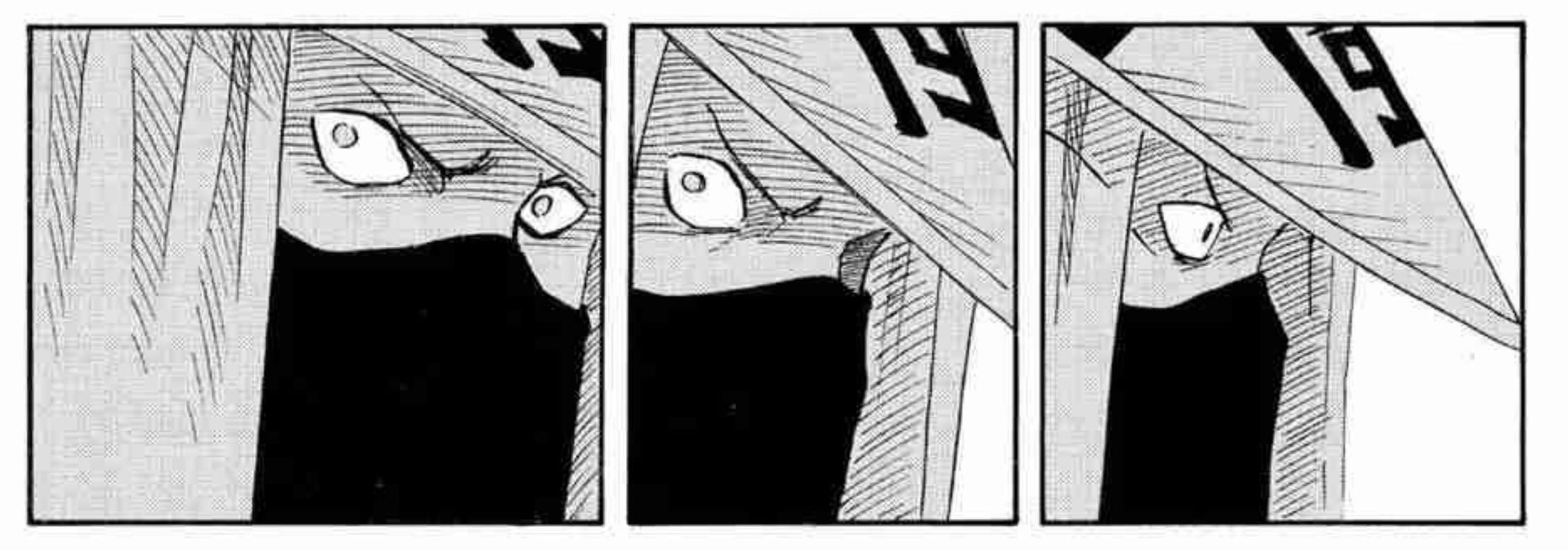
CLENCH
CLENCH
KAI! RELEASE !!

KAI! RELEASE!
WHAT IS GOING ON?!

THEY WOULD NOTICE AND REVERSE THE GEN-JUTSU...
HEH... LEAVE IT TO THE KONOHA ELITES...
ZZZ
ZZZ

READ
THIS
WAY


...TIME!!
THEN IT'S ALMOST...
GENJUTSU...!
KABUTO'S MAKING HIS MOVE ALREADY, HUH...?

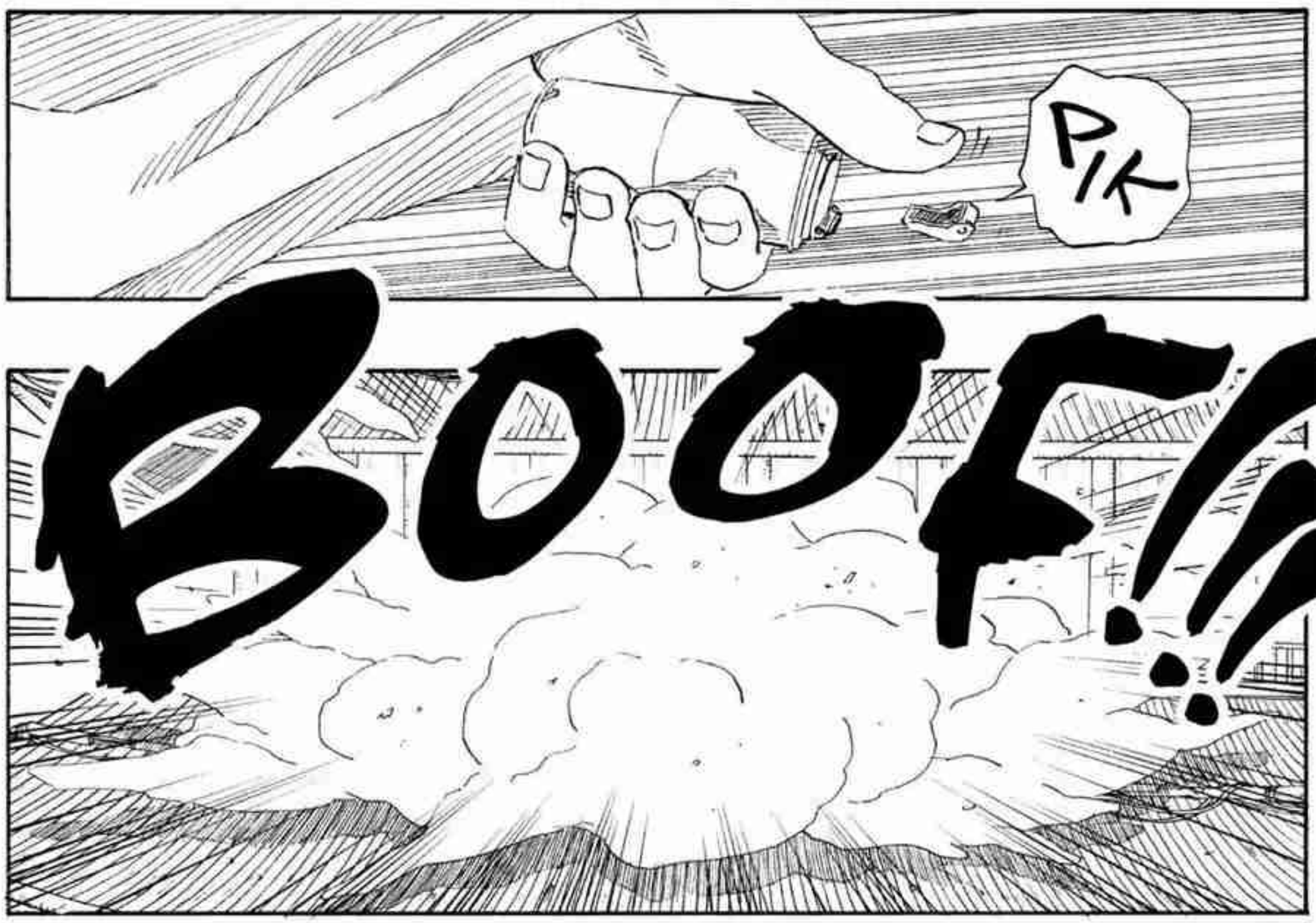


風

SHOM

SHALL WE GET GOING...?

SHOM



!
!
!
PUSH
COMMENCE OPERATION!!!

NARUTO IS IN ITS THIRD YEAR. AND ASSISTANTS HAVE COME AND GONE. ASSISTANT NO. 1, THE DUMB-ACTING SUPER-COOL KYUSHU NATIVE TAKAHASHI-SAN, WHO WAS THERE FROM THE VERY BEGINNING OF *NARUTO* (SEE VOLUME 6, PAGE 26) HAS LEFT OUR OFFICE, AND TWO NEW ASSISTANTS HAVE STARTED. AND SO...

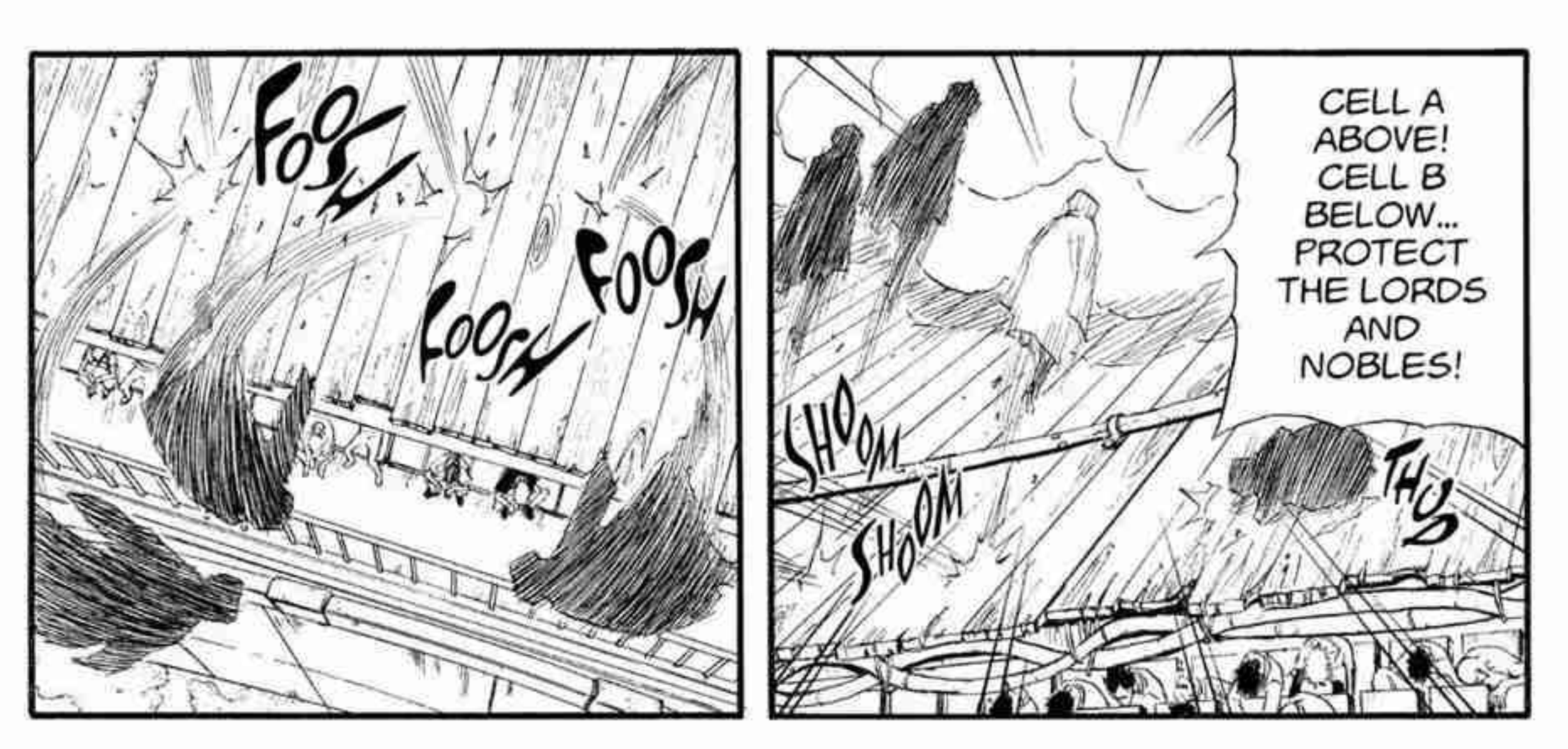
MEET KISHIMOTO MASASHI'S ASSISTANTS PART 5
ASSISTANT NO. 5: NISHIYA KOUICHI

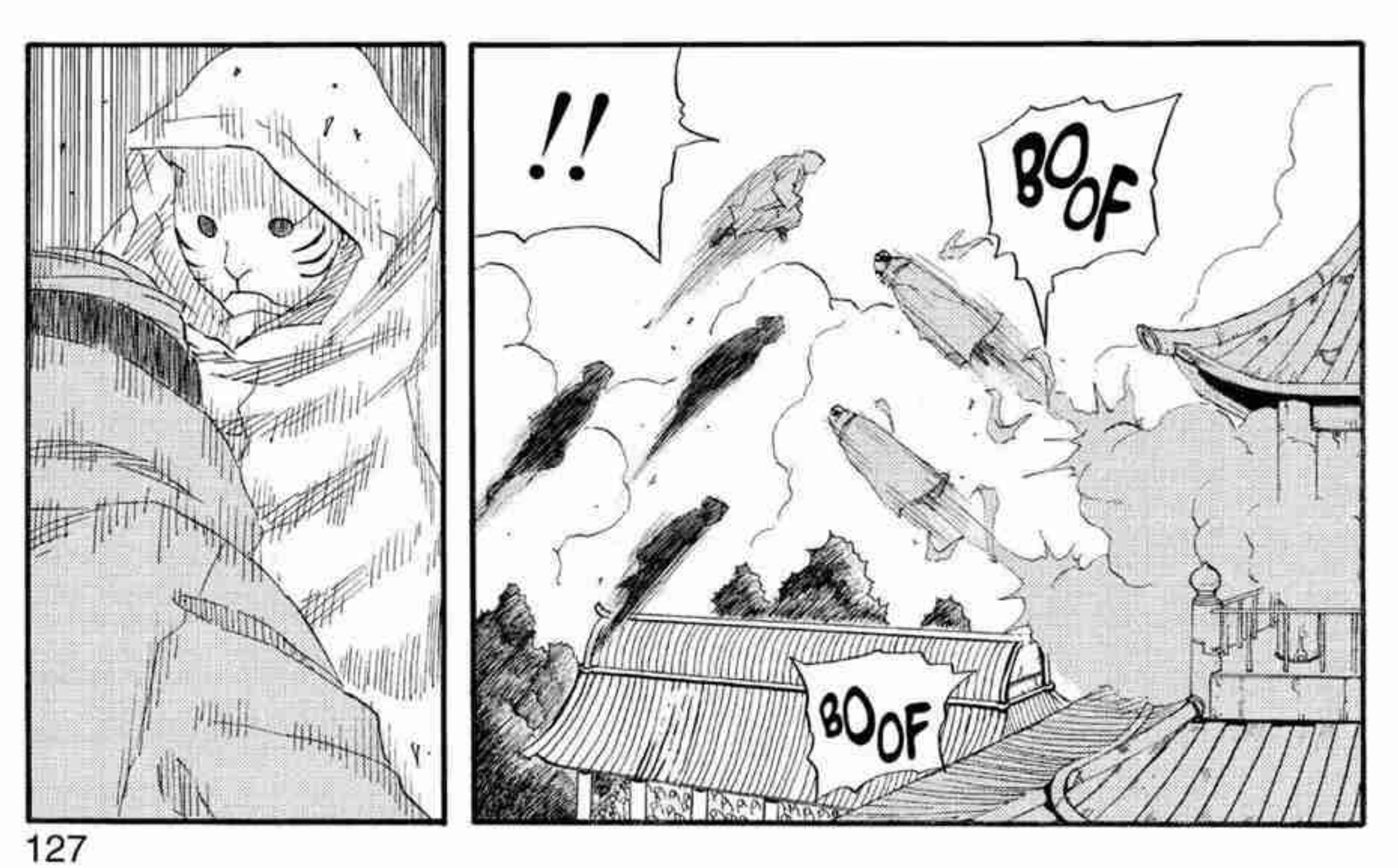
Number 115: The Chûnin Exam, Concluded...!!

DOOM

Number 115: The Chûnin Exam Concluded...!!

READ THIS WAY


FOOSH
FOOSH
FOOSH
CELL A ABOVE! CELL B BELOW... PROTECT THE LORDS AND NOBLES!
SHOOM
SHOOM
THUD

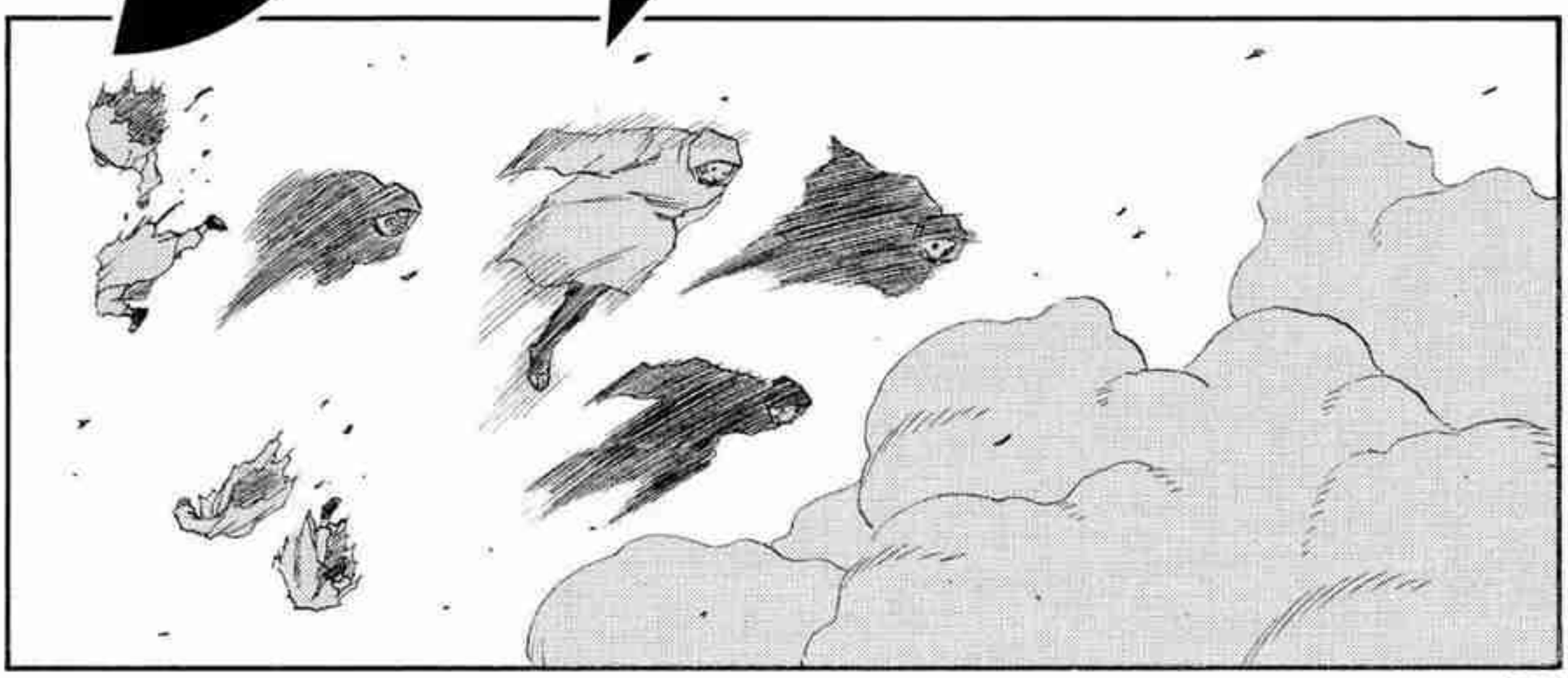

!!
BOOF
BOOF

!!

OUT OF THE WAY...

SH

!!



ARGH!!
CLANG
THUD

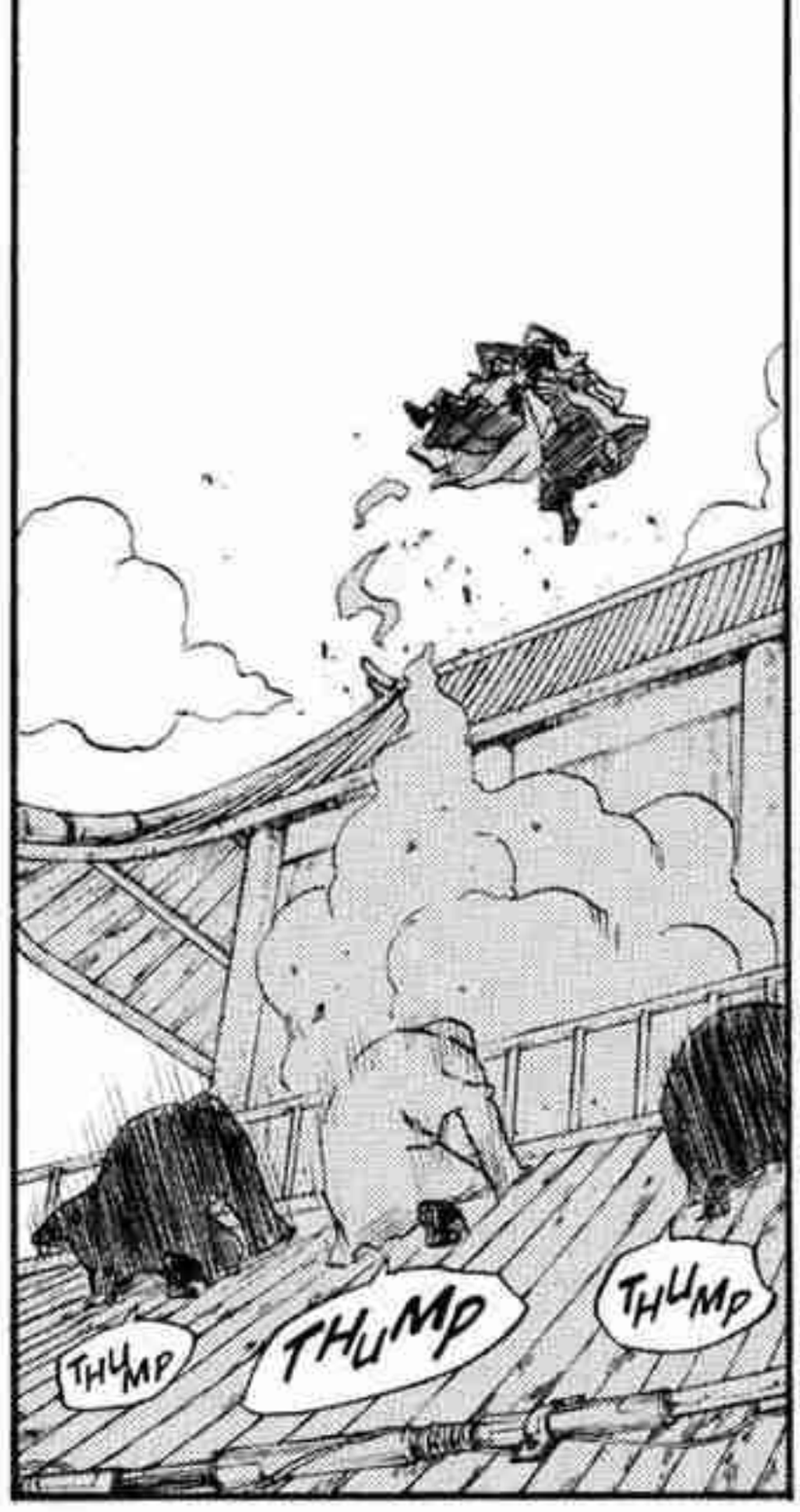
!

BOOM
!!

!!

!!
!

!!


THUMP
THUMP
THUMP

火
風

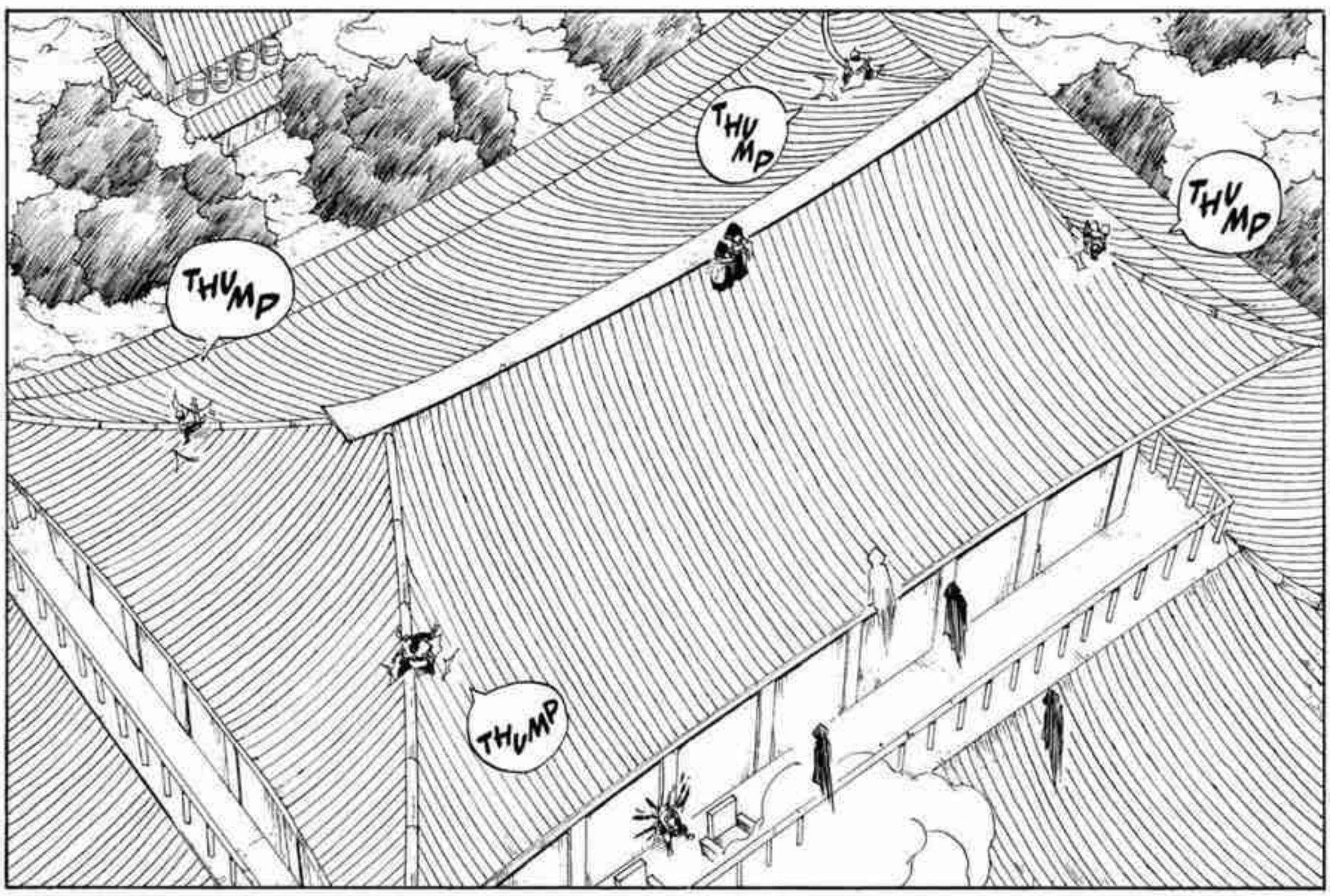
SHA

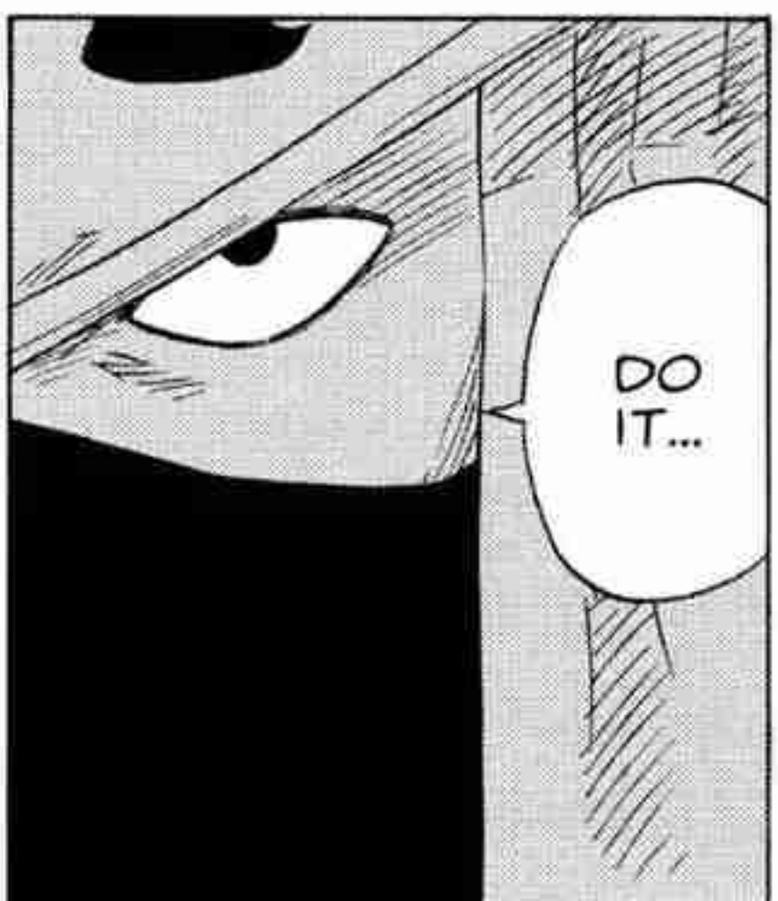
FSSH
FSSH
FSSH
FSSH

SPLAT
SPLAT
SPLAT
SPLAT

AFTER THEM!!
SHOOM
SHOOM

!!
SHOOM
SHOOM


THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP


DO IT...

HAH!
FOO
NINJA ART: SHISHIENJIN! FOUR FLAMES FORMATION!
SH

READ
THIS
WAY

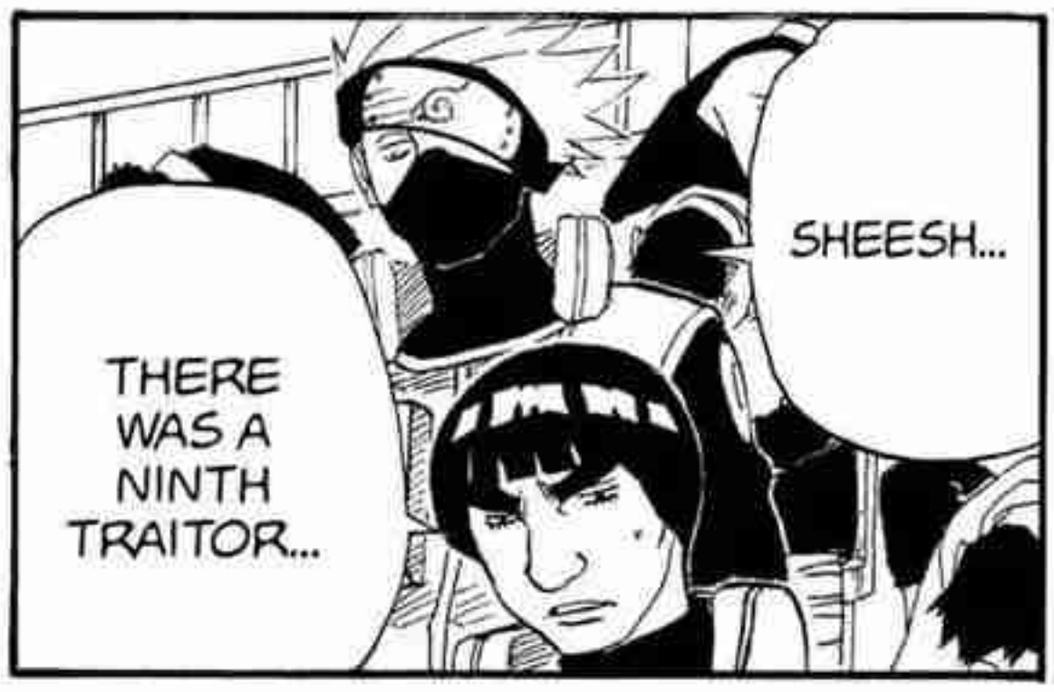
SLAM

!

UGH...
IT'S A BARRIER...!
THUD
THUMP

KOO
ARGH!
SSH

SHOOM
SHOOM
SHOOM


SHEESH...
THERE WAS A NINTH TRAITOR...

SO IT WOULD APPEAR...
SO HE'S THE ONE WHO PERFORMED THE GENJUTSU...

SOUND NINJA!!

I NEVER IMAGINED SAND WOULD BETRAY KONOHA...
TREATIES ARE MERELY SMOKE-SCREENS TO LULL THE OTHER PARTY INTO RELAXING THEIR GUARD.

SHOOM
SHOOM
SHOOM

FROM HERE ON OUT, HISTORY WILL BE MADE...
THIS PITIFUL PRETEND COMPETITION IS NOW OVER...

READ THIS WAY

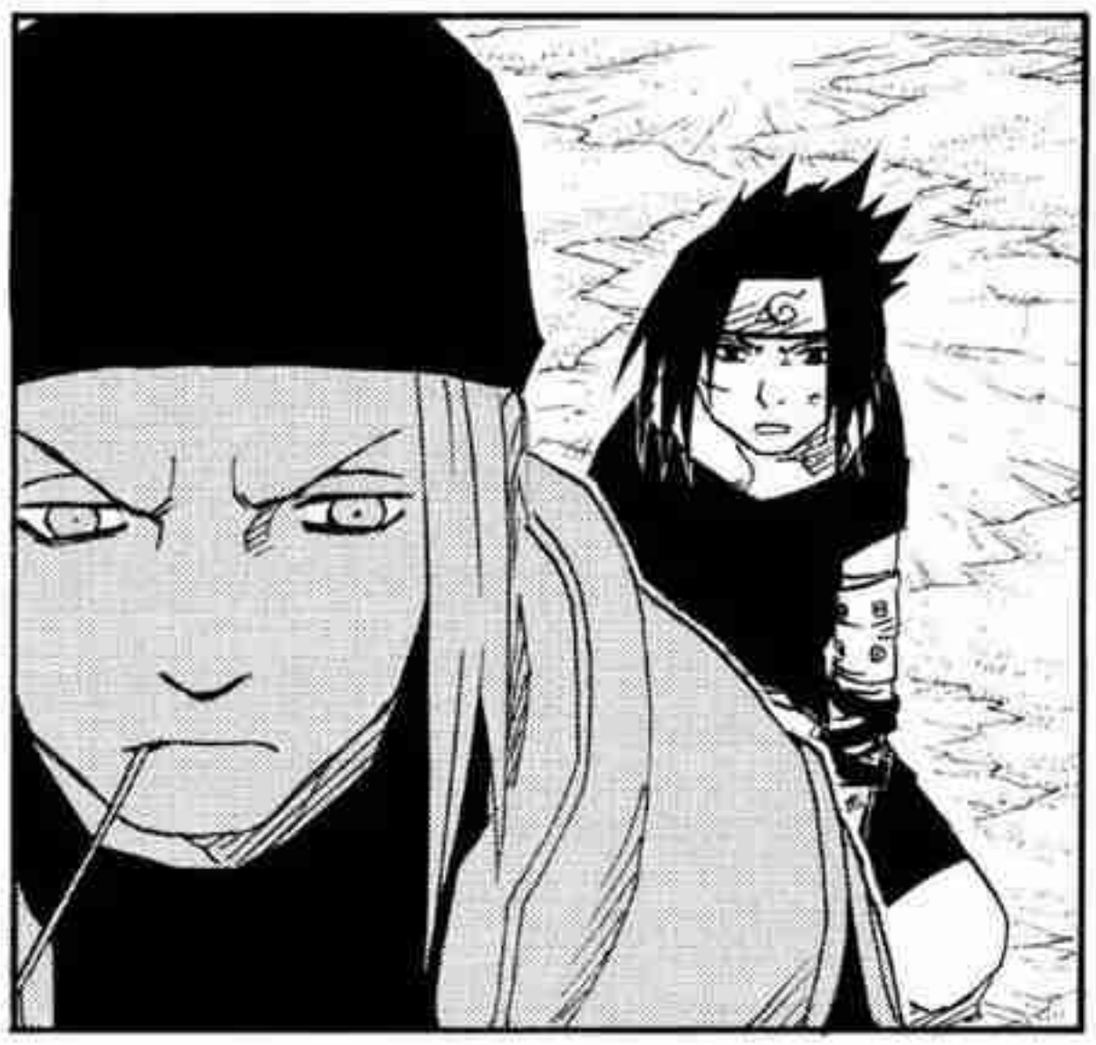
THERE IS STILL TIME FOR THAT...
LET US AVOID VIOLENCE AND INSTEAD REACH A SETTLEMENT THROUGH NEGOTIATION... LORD KAZEKAGE.

INDEED.

ARE YOU INCITING WAR?!

...MASTER SARUTOBI!!
HO HO...
OLD AGE HAS MADE YOU FEEBLE-MINDED...
!
...

YOU...



SHF
!

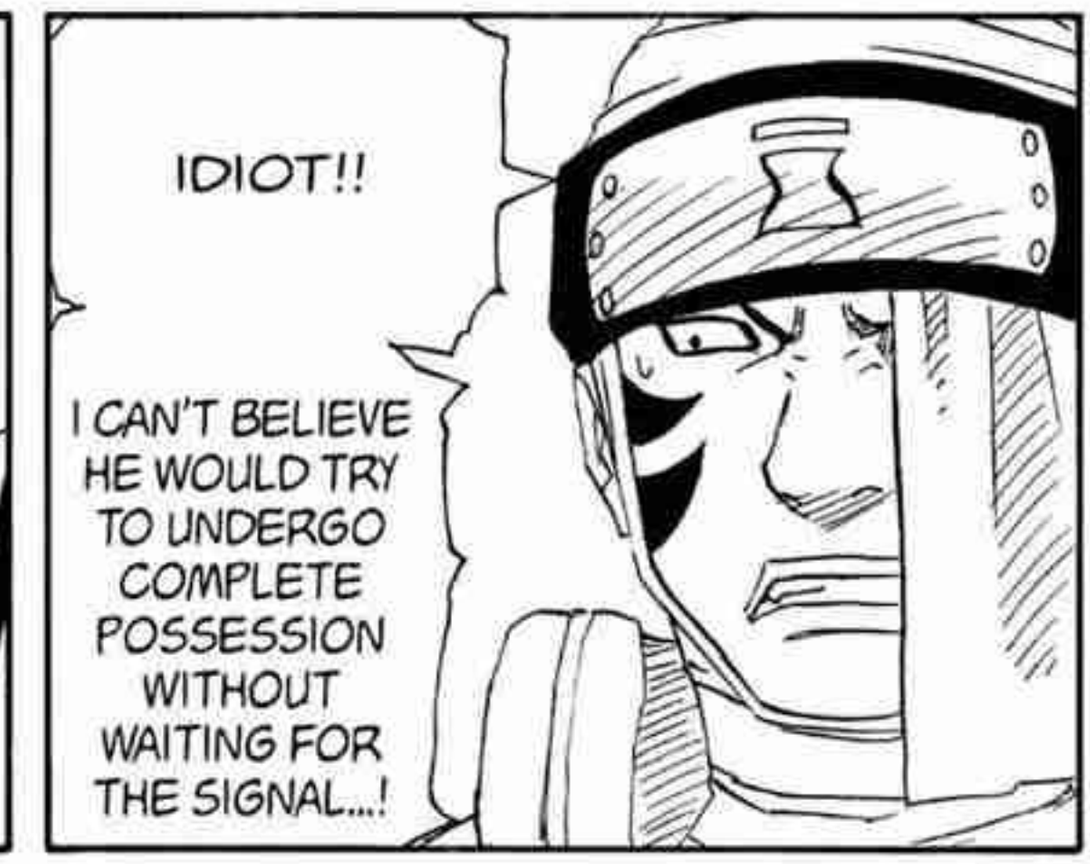
WHAT'S WRONG...?
HEY...

GAARA, THE PLAN...

...!

UNH...
UNH...

HE CAN'T DO IT ANYMORE!!
HE'S SUFFERING A REACTION.

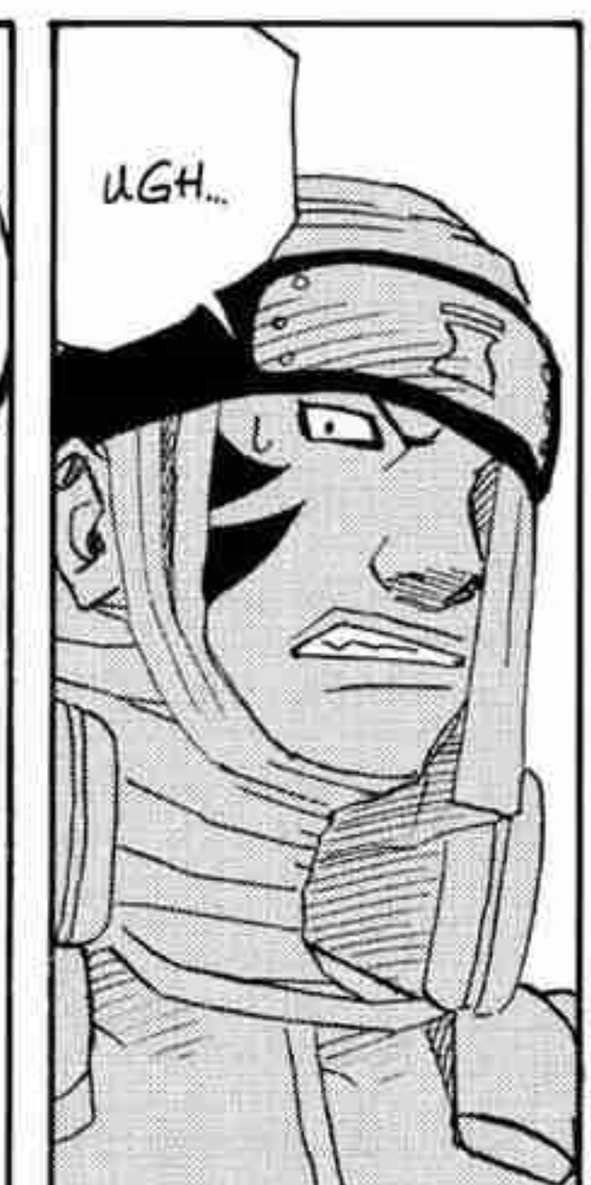

IDIOT!!
I CAN'T BELIEVE HE WOULD TRY TO UNDERGO COMPLETE POSSESSION WITHOUT WAITING FOR THE SIGNAL...!

YOU WANT US TO GO AHEAD WITHOUT GAARA?!
THEN WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO?!

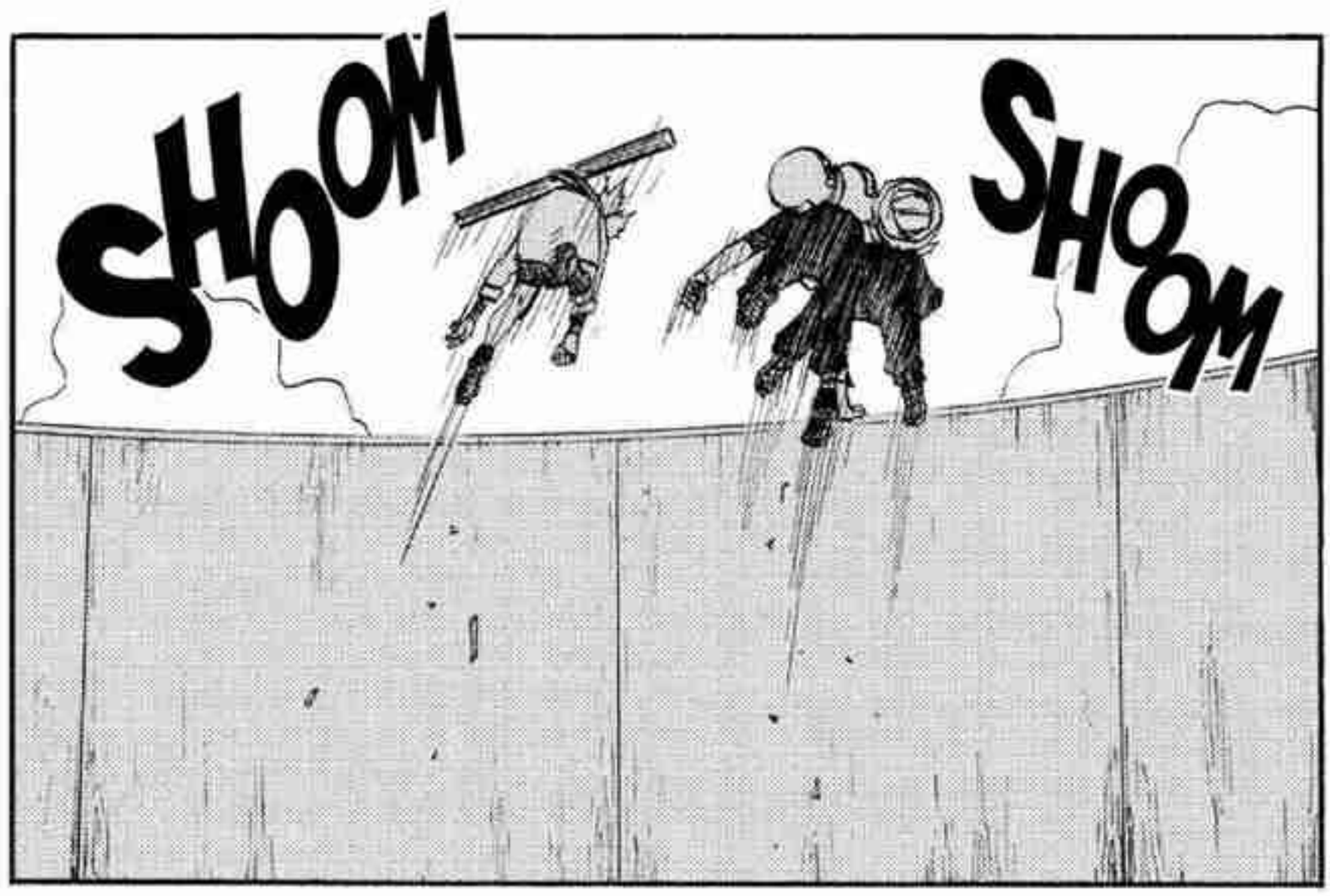
?!

...

...UNH...


UGH...

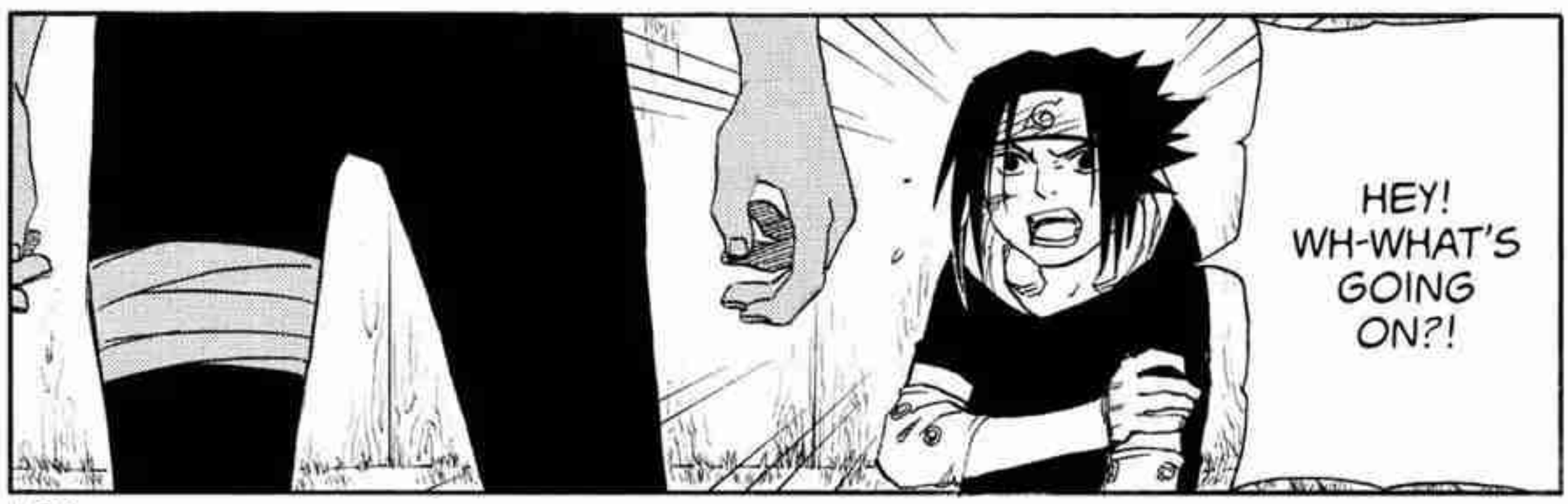
I'M CALLING IT OFF!


SHOOM
SHOOM

!

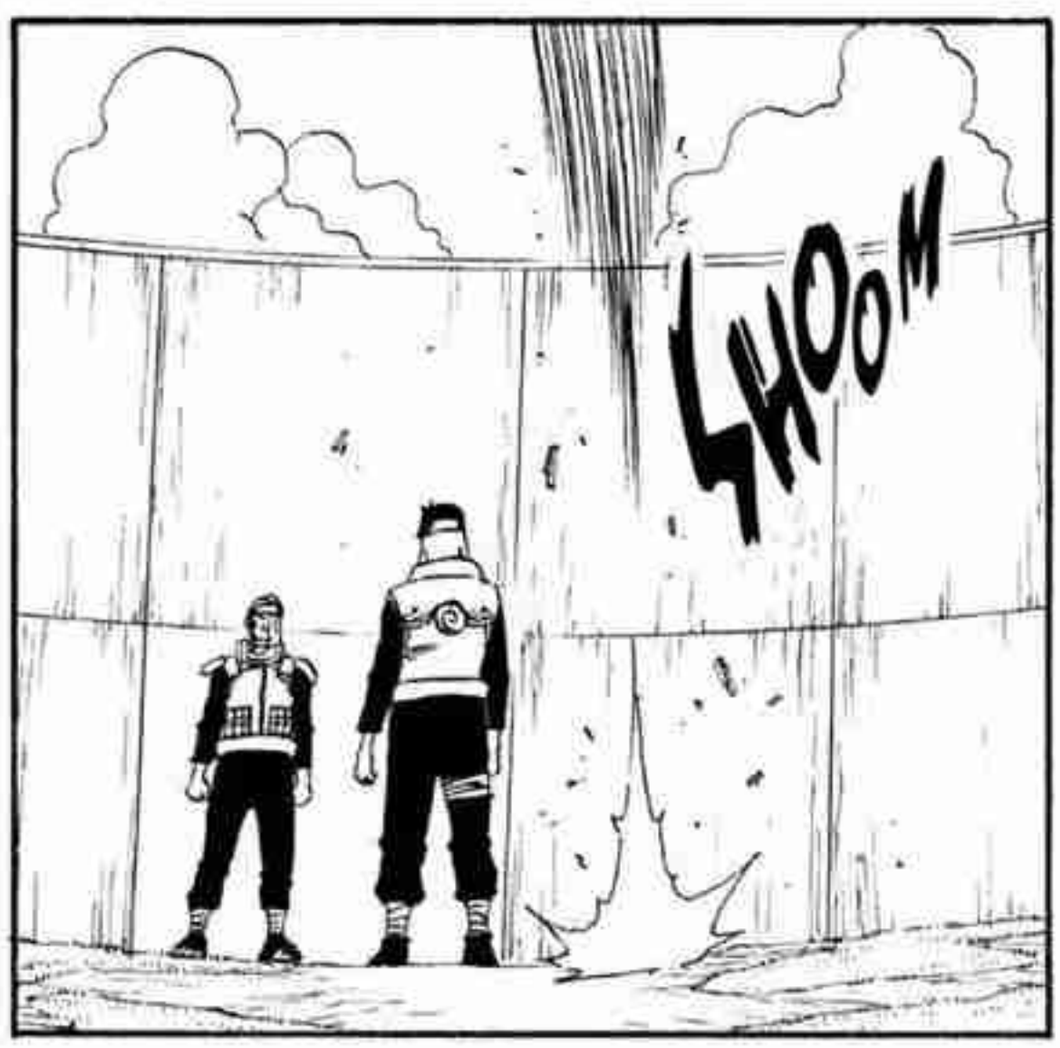
LET'S JUST AMP THINGS UP A BIT, SHALL WE...?
WHO KNOWS...?

...OROCHIMARU?
IS THE HOST OF THIS LITTLE PARTY...


HEY! WH-WHAT'S GOING ON?!

YOU GO AFTER GAARA AND THE OTHERS, RIGHT NOW!

SORRY, BUT THE CHÛNIN EXAM IS OVER.



GAARA WASN'T OF ANY USE, HUH...?

SASUKE...!!

...I SEE... SO THAT'S WHAT'S AFOOT...

...
HEH HEH HEH...

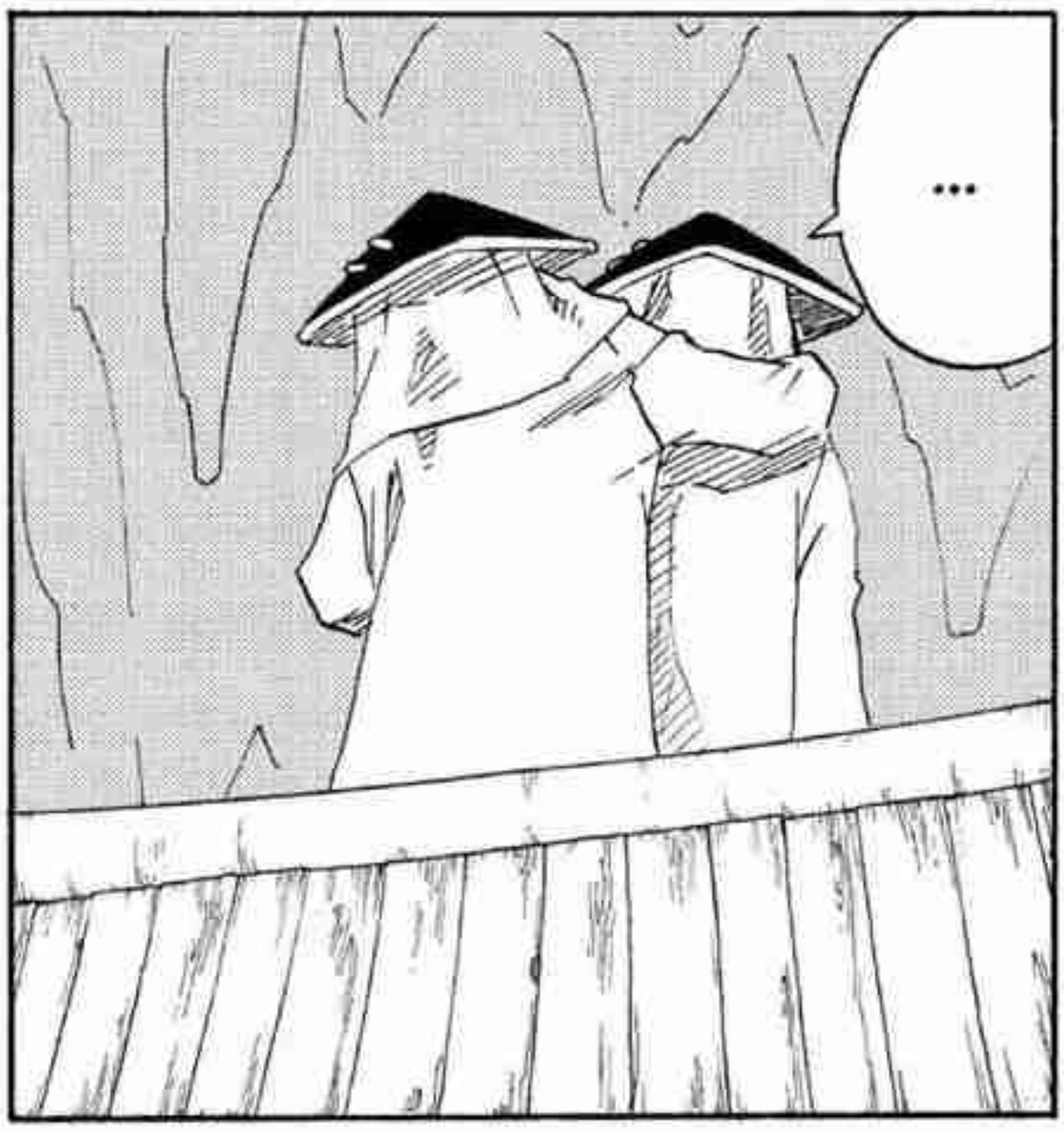
I THOUGHT I TAUGHT YOU NOT TO COUNT YOUR CHICKENS BEFORE THEY'RE HATCHED...
HUMPH...!

GSSH

IT'S MY VICTORY.
YOUR FOOLISHNESS HAS STALLED, PERHAPS EVEN STAGNATED, KONOHA...

...
OROCHIMARU.
SHUP

I THOUGHT THIS DAY WOULD EVENTUALLY COME...
風


...

HOWEVER, MY HEAD WON'T COME OFF AS EASILY...!

I THOUGHT I WARNED YOU TO HURRY UP AND NAME THE FIFTH HOKAGE...

...IS GOING TO DIE RIGHT HERE...
BECAUSE THE THIRD...
LICK

Number 116:
Operation Destroy Konoha...!!

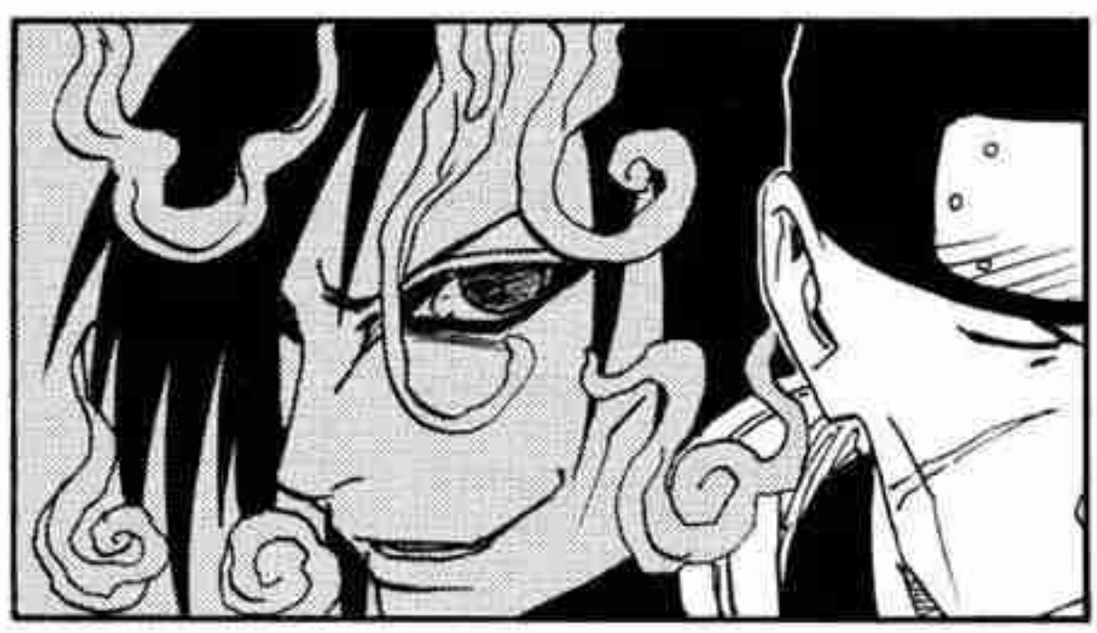
NARUTO
-ナルト-

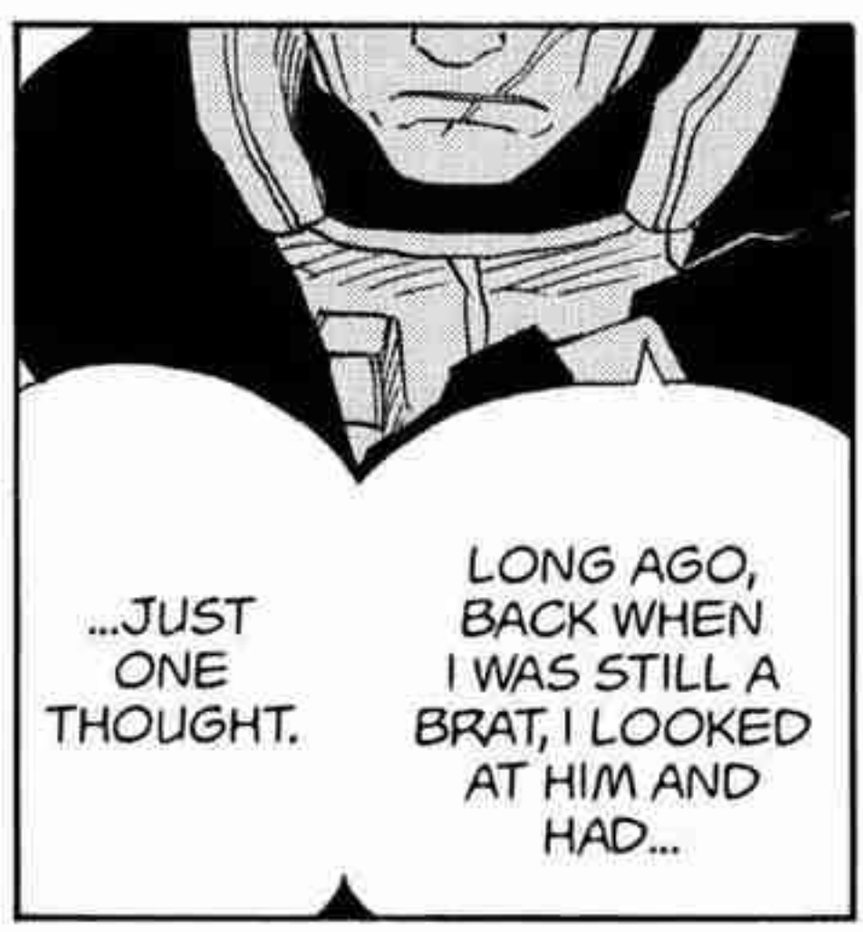
SO... WHAT SORT OF FELLOW IS THIS OROCHIMARU?

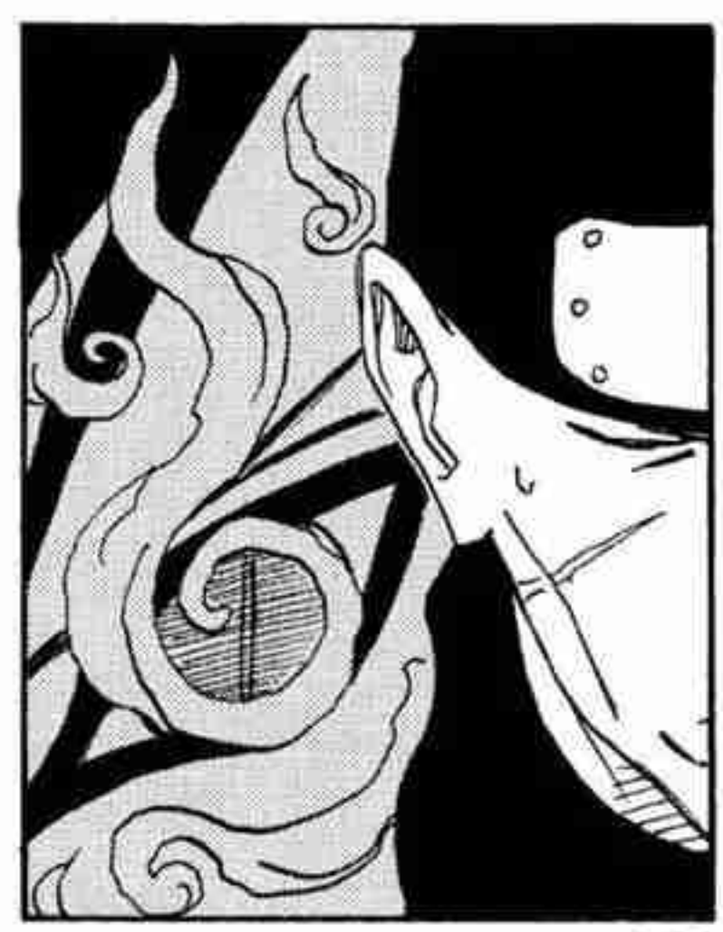
OROCHIMARU'S PROBABLY RESENTED THE THIRD LORD...

...EVER SINCE.

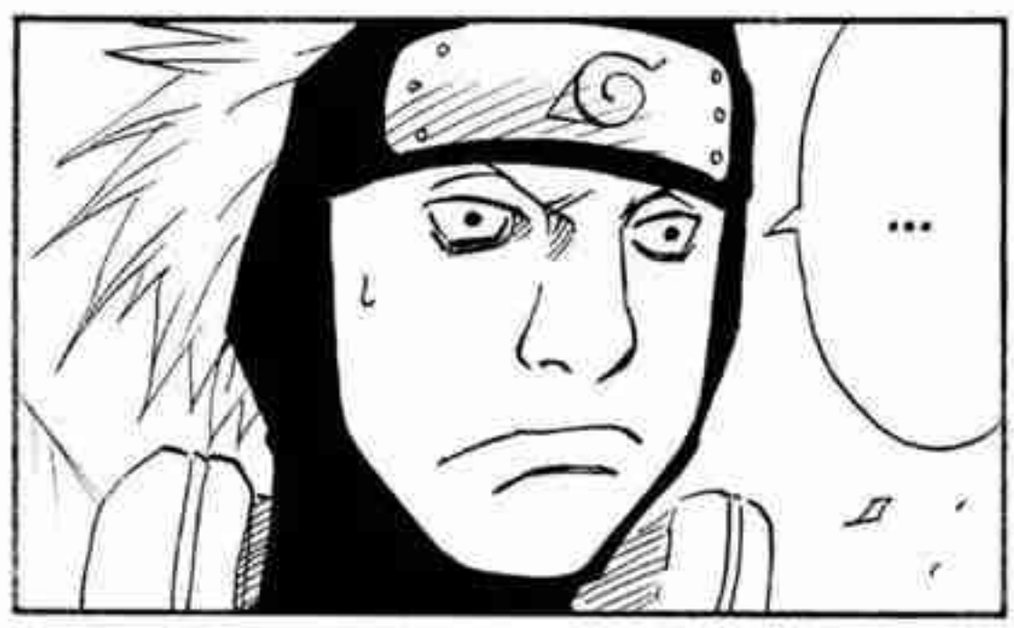
SHORTLY AFTER THAT, HE RAN FROM THE VILLAGE...







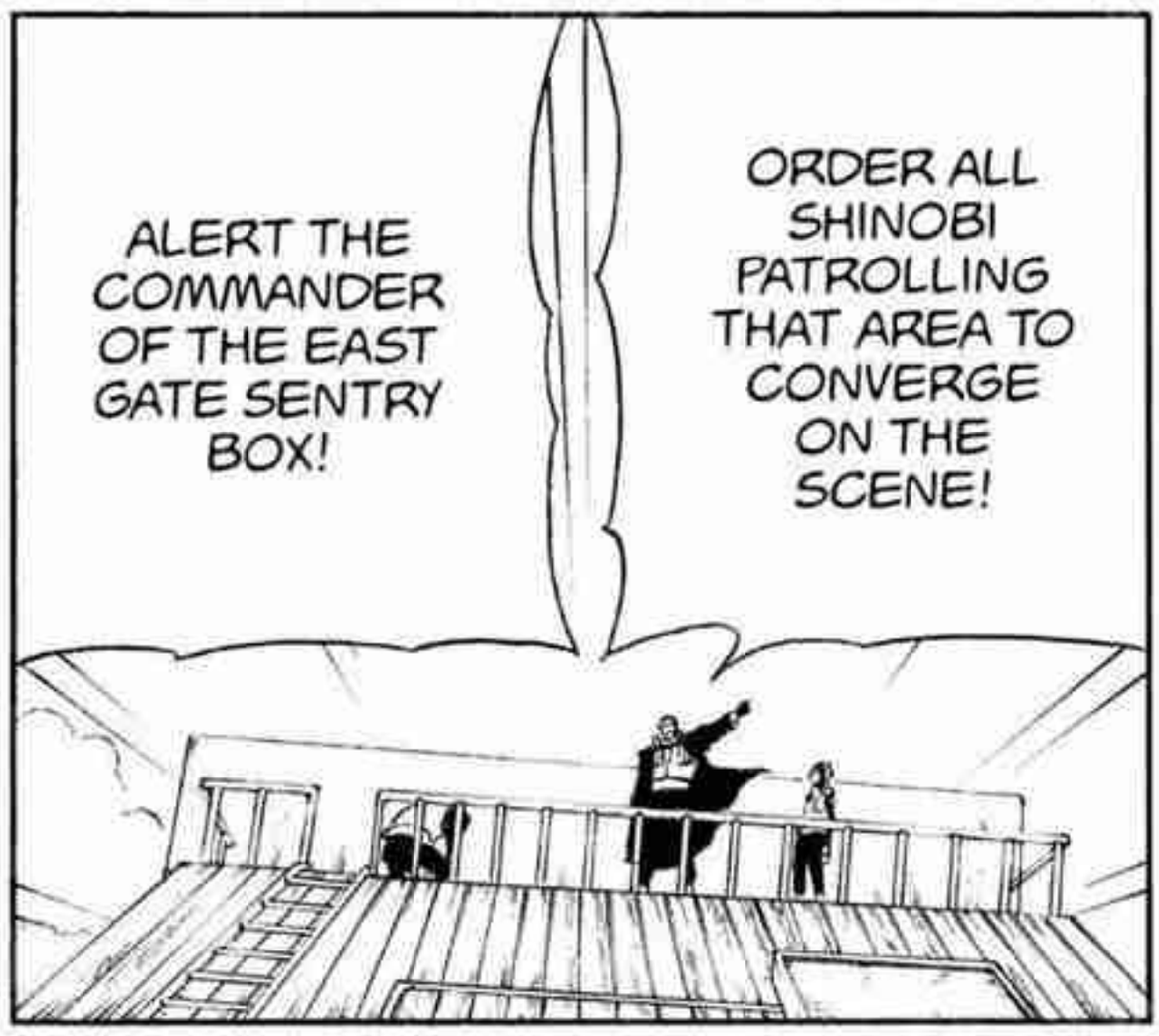
...HE SCARED ME.
THAT HE WASN'T HUMAN... MERELY SOMETHING THAT HAD HUMAN FORM...


...

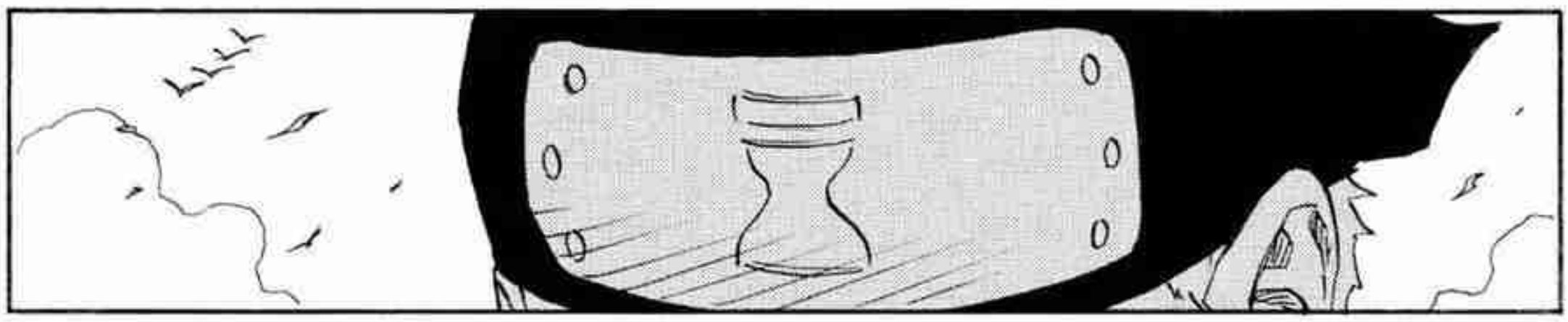
JUST... SCARED ME...

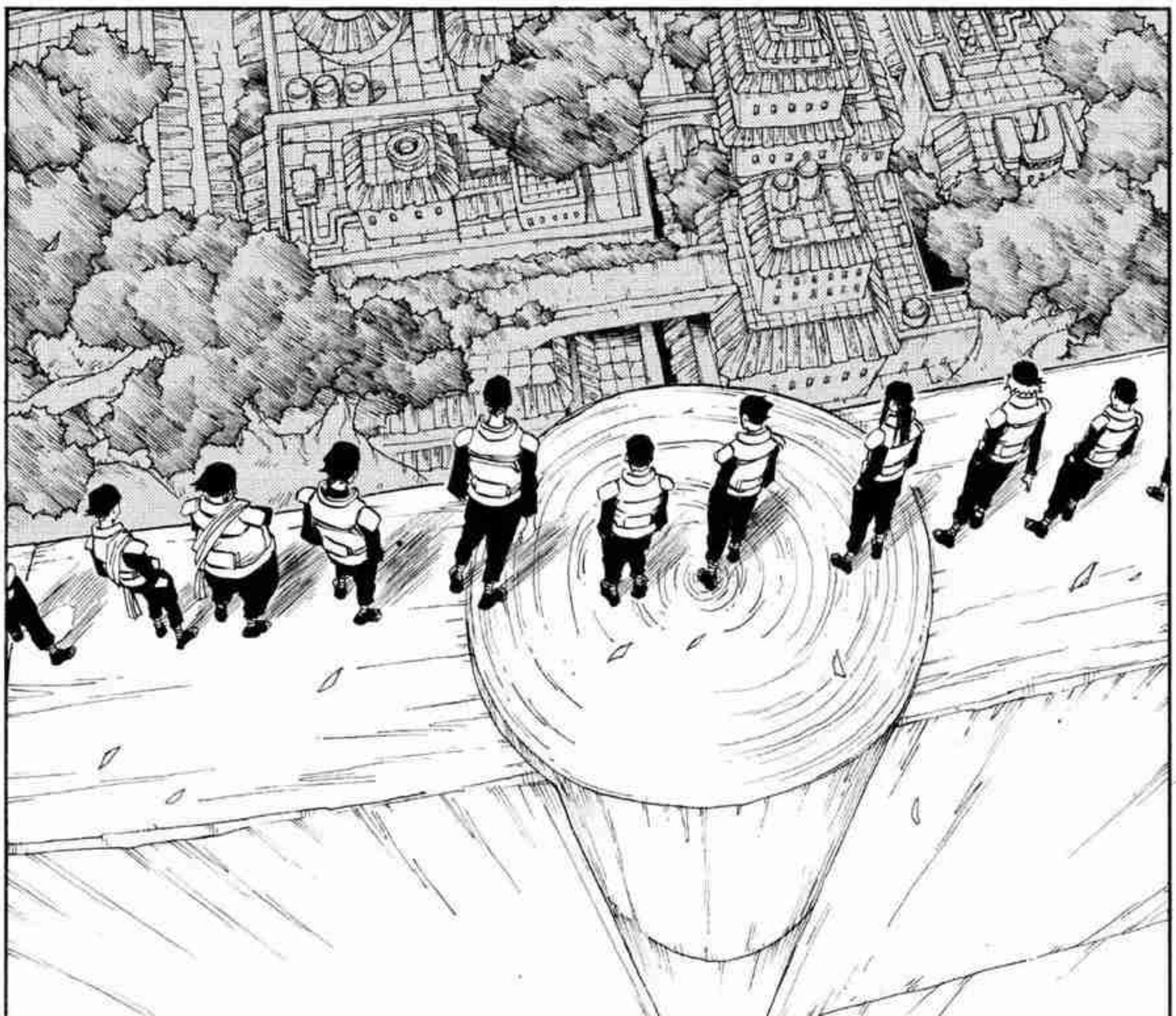
GIANT SNAKES HAVE APPEARED IN THE VICINITY OF THE EAST GATE! FOLLOWING THEM, ROUGHLY 100 SAND SHINOBI HAVE INFILTRATED THE VILLAGE!
REPORTING IN!!

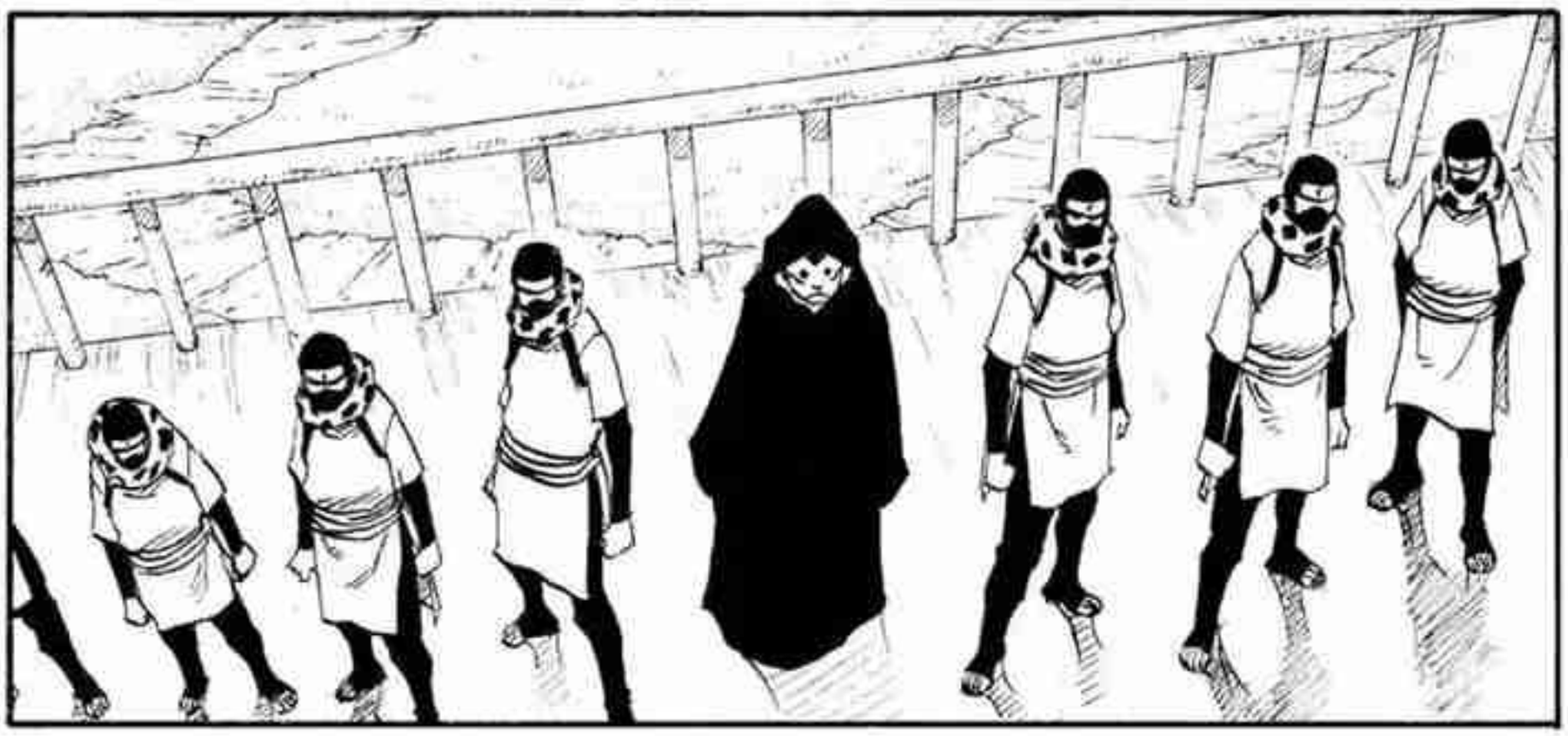
SHOOM

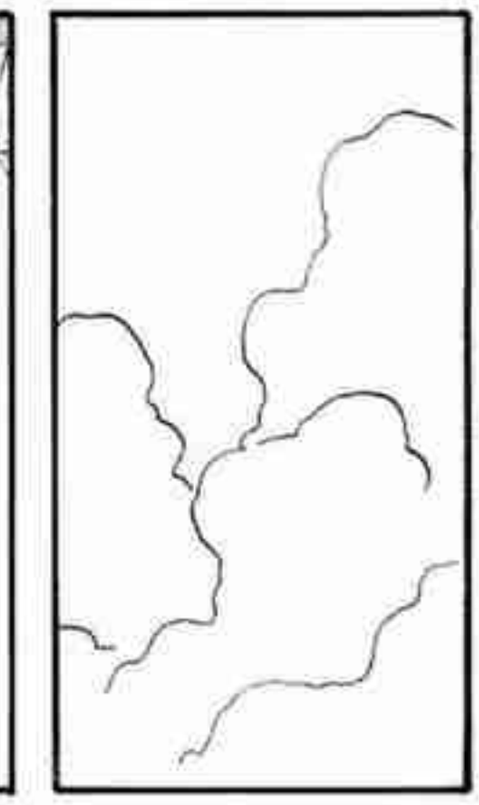

ALERT THE COMMANDER OF THE EAST GATE SENTRY BOX!
ORDER ALL SHINOBI PATROLLING THAT AREA TO CONVERGE ON THE SCENE!

IT'S FINALLY COME!







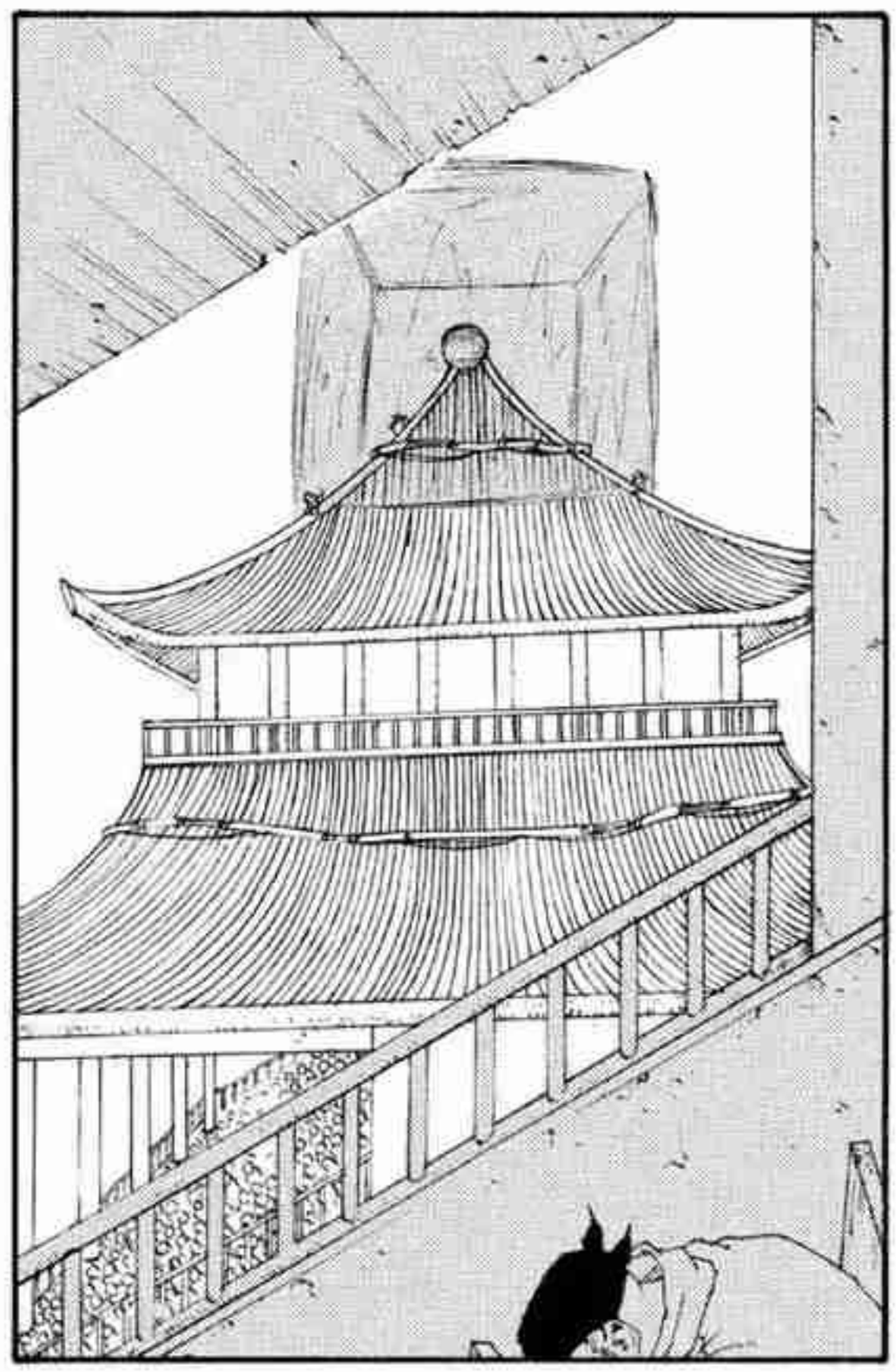


!

LOOK OVER TOWARD THE ROOF OF THE CENTRAL VIEWING TOWER.
THAT'S NOT ALL. THERE'S SOME-THING EVEN WORSE.

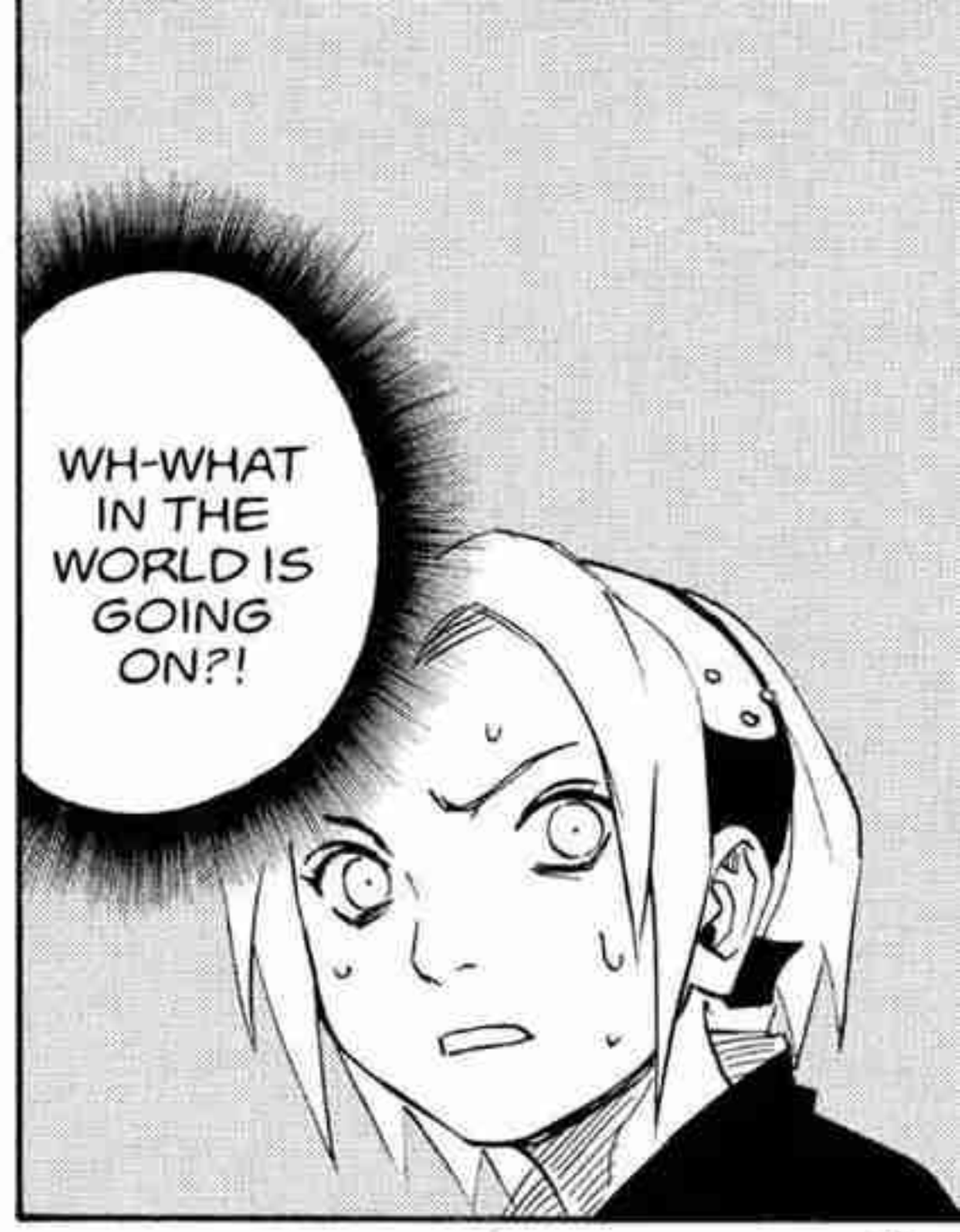
IT'S QUITE A CROWD ...

THAT'S A BARRIER-NINJUTSU...!
!



...

!
KAKASHI, LOOK CLOSELY INSIDE THE BARRIER!


WH-WHAT IN THE WORLD IS GOING ON?!

OROCHIMARU!!
!!

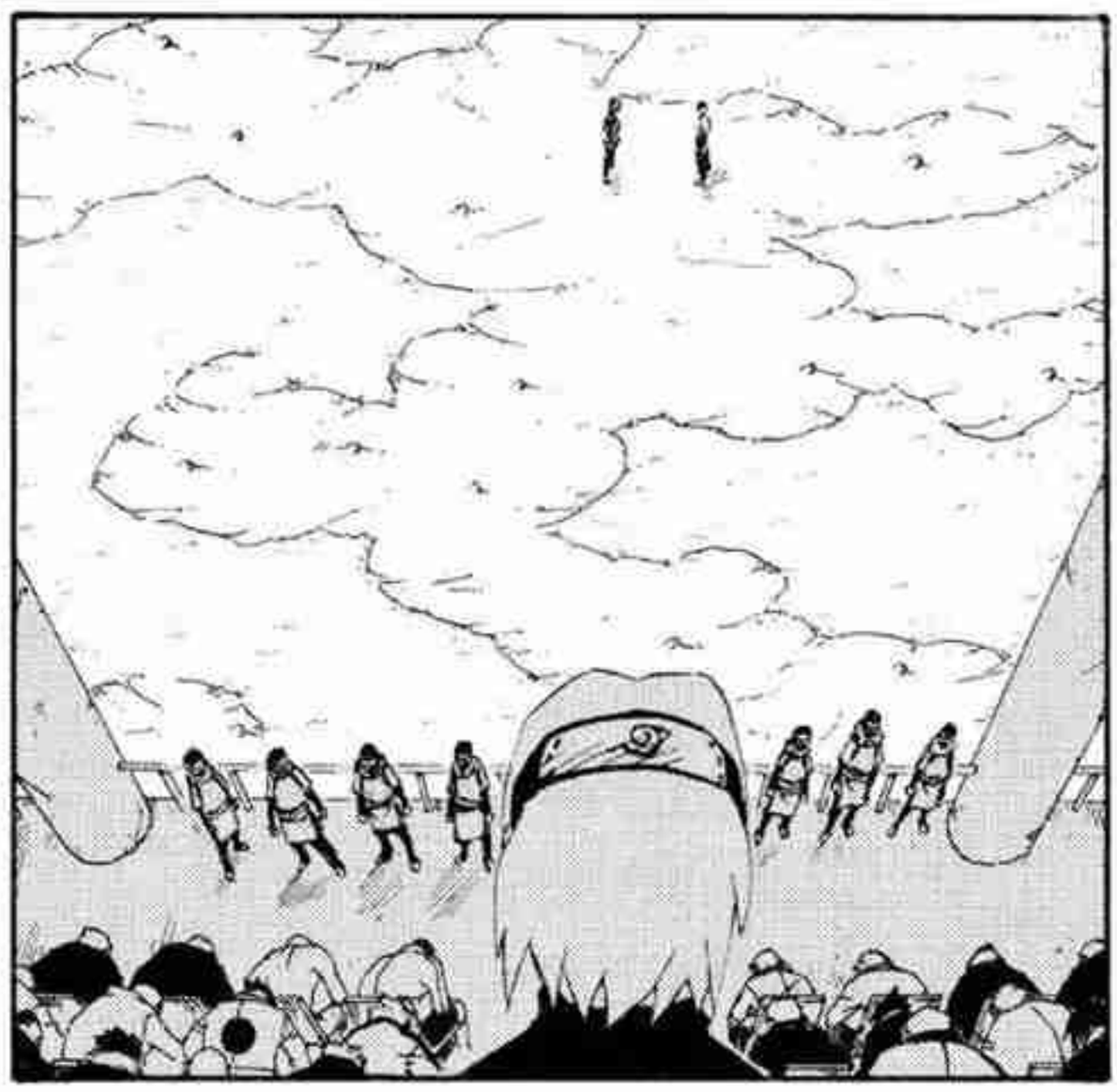
DON'T TELL ME HE'S AFTER SASUKE AGAIN...!!
WH-WHAT'S HE DOING HERE...?

SASUKE...!

OROCHIMARU?!

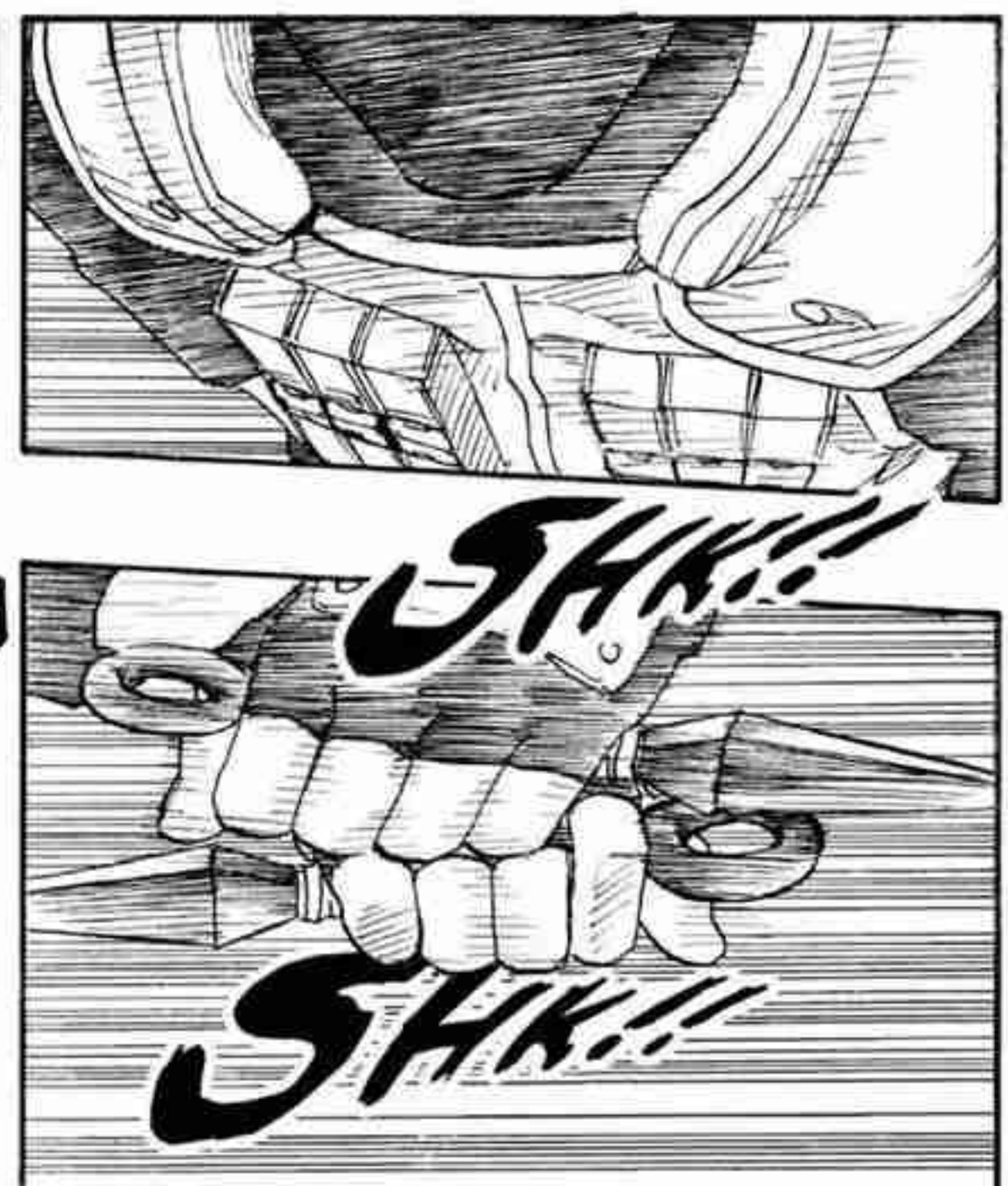
READ
THIS
WAY

WHERE'S SASUKE...?!
OH...



HUH?
FSSH
FSSH

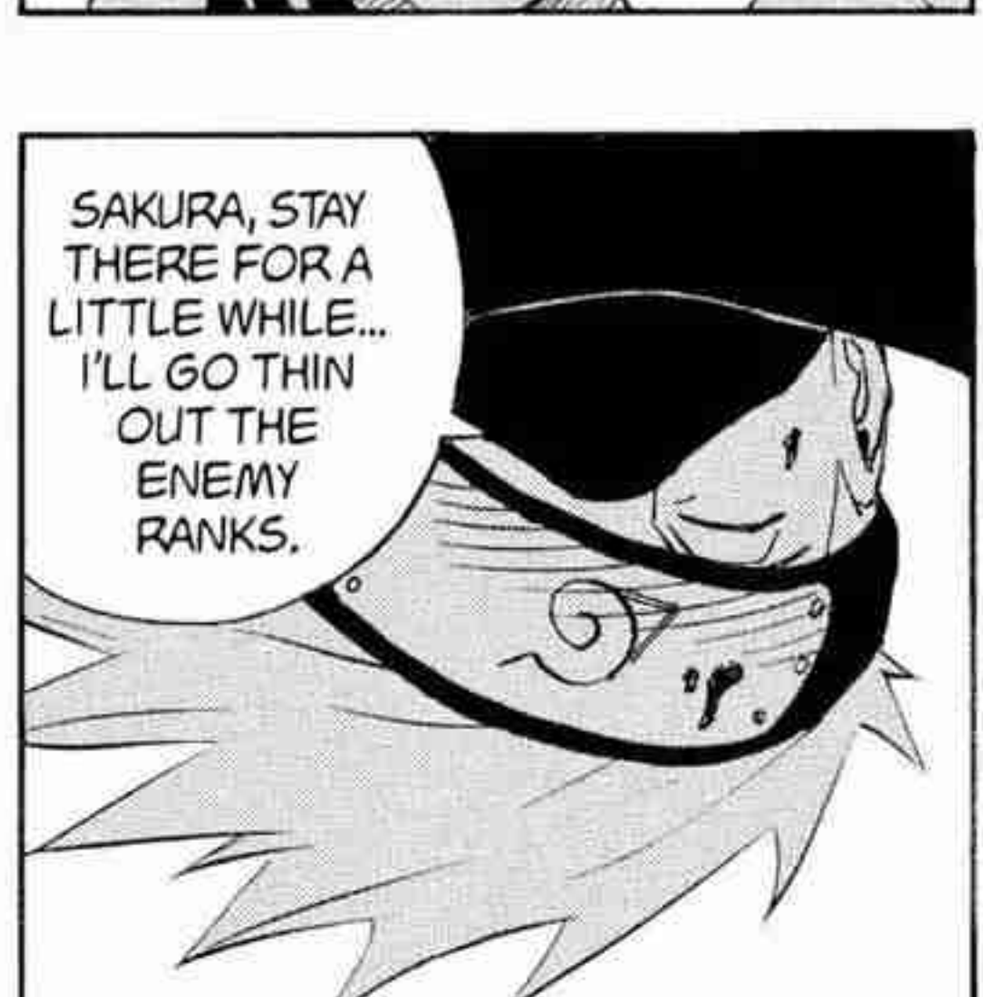
SHUN
SHUN


SHK!!
SHK!!

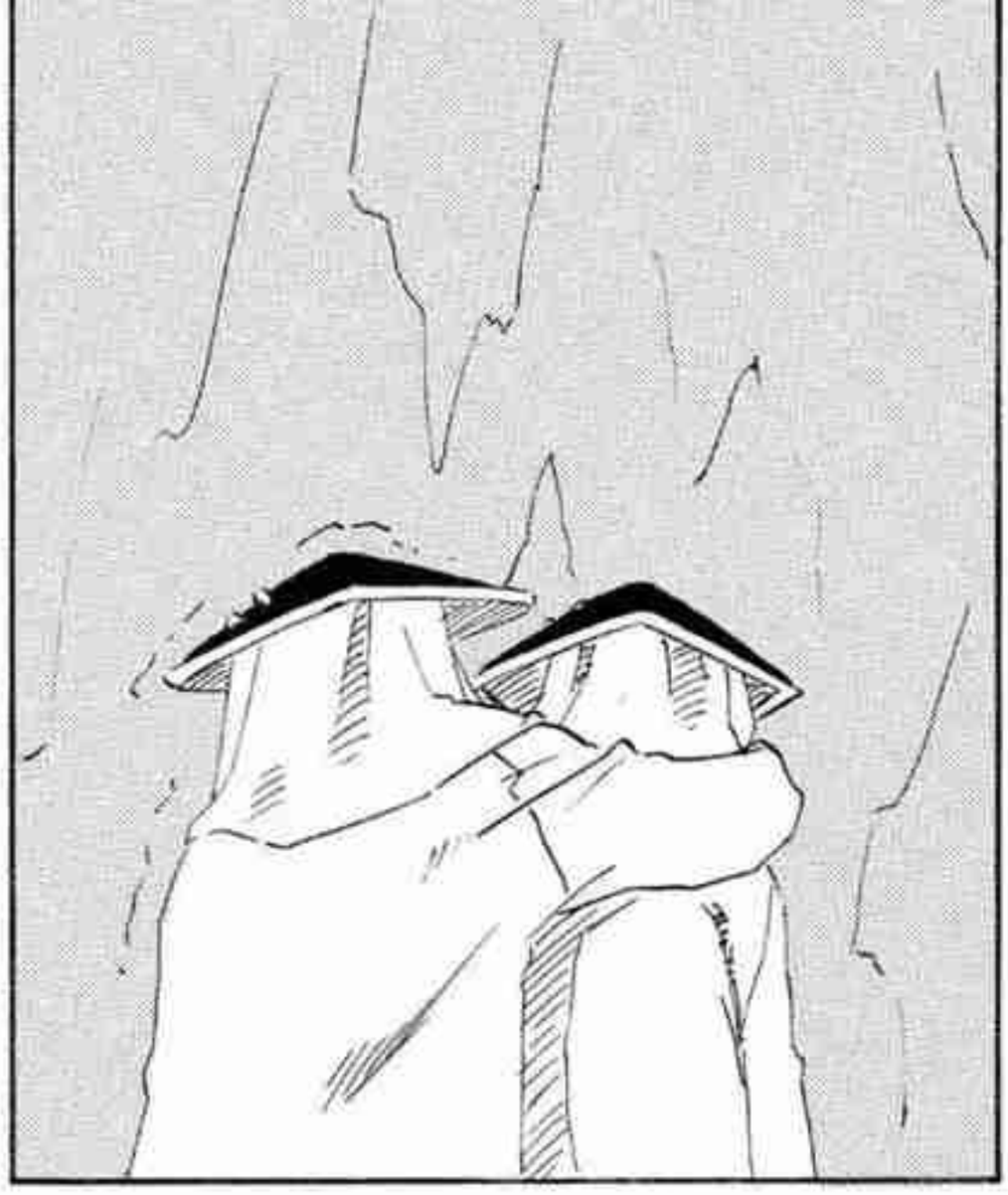
KACHINK
KACHINK
KACHINK

THUD
THUD
...

...
PEEK


SAKURA, STAY THERE FOR A LITTLE WHILE... I'LL GO THIN OUT THE ENEMY RANKS.

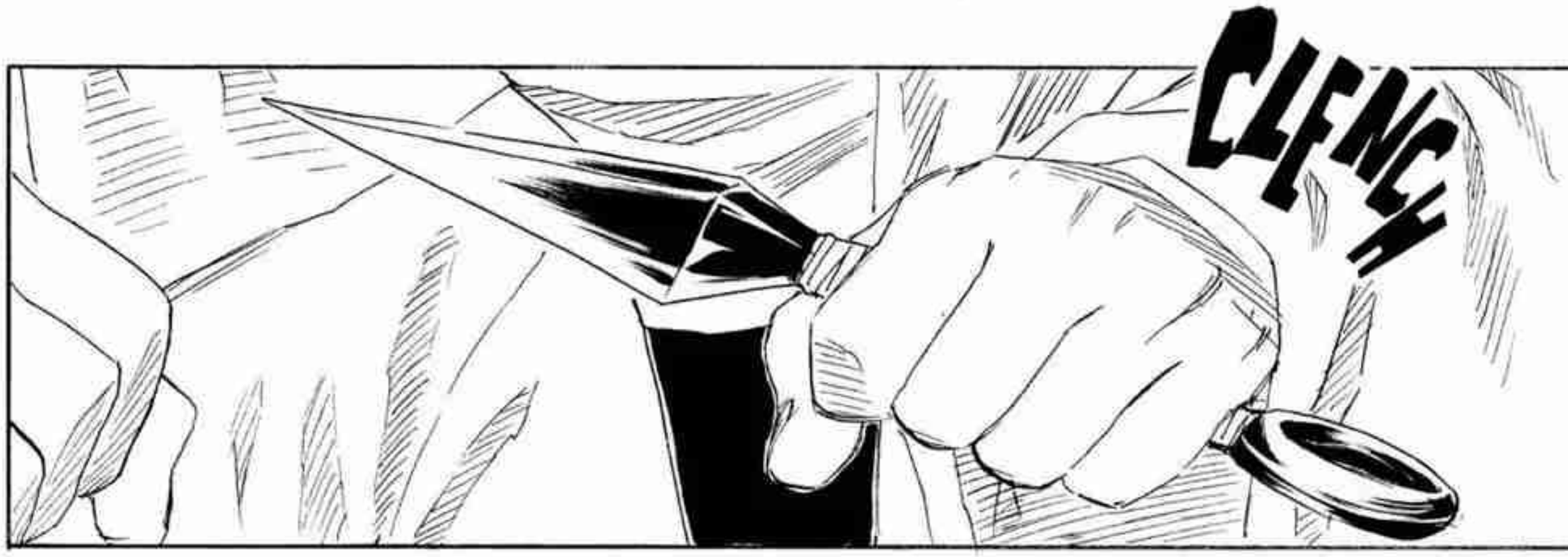
SHUNK
THUMP
ARGH!
...LORD HOKAGE ISN'T THE TYPE TO BE TAKEN DOWN SO EASILY...
LEAVE THAT TO THE ANBU BLACK OPS AGENTS. BESIDES...
BUT...
KACH
TINK
DARN IT...
I'M CONCERNED ABOUT LORD HOKAGE, BUT...
SHUP
KABOSH
...HOKAGE.
KONOHA VILLAGE'S...
FOR HE IS...

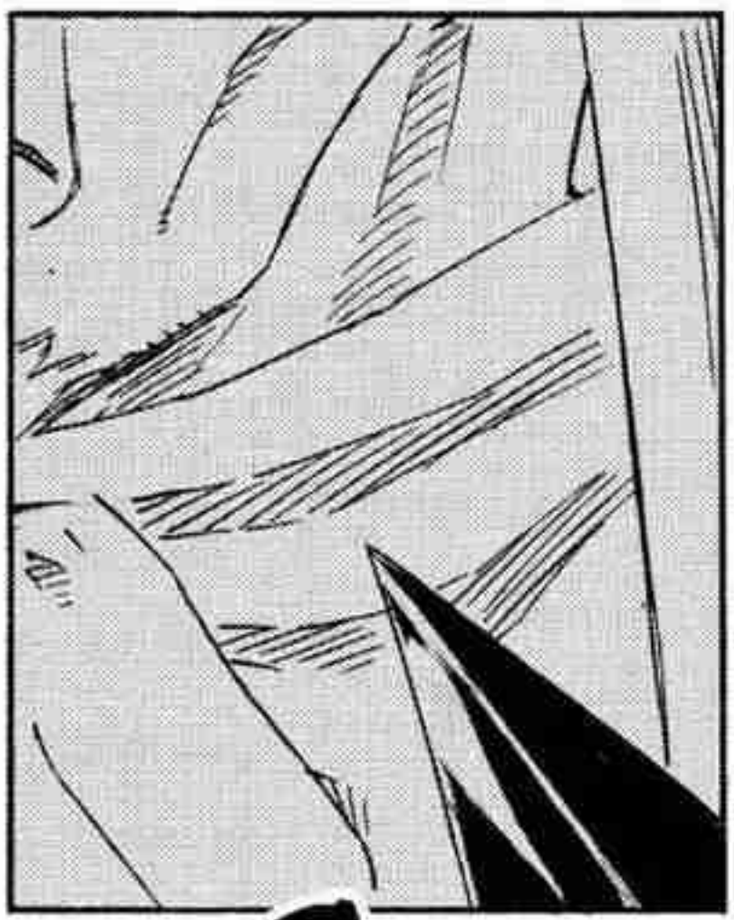


!

ARE YOU THAT OVER-JOYED...?
OR IS IT...

PLIP


CLENCH



SPLAT!

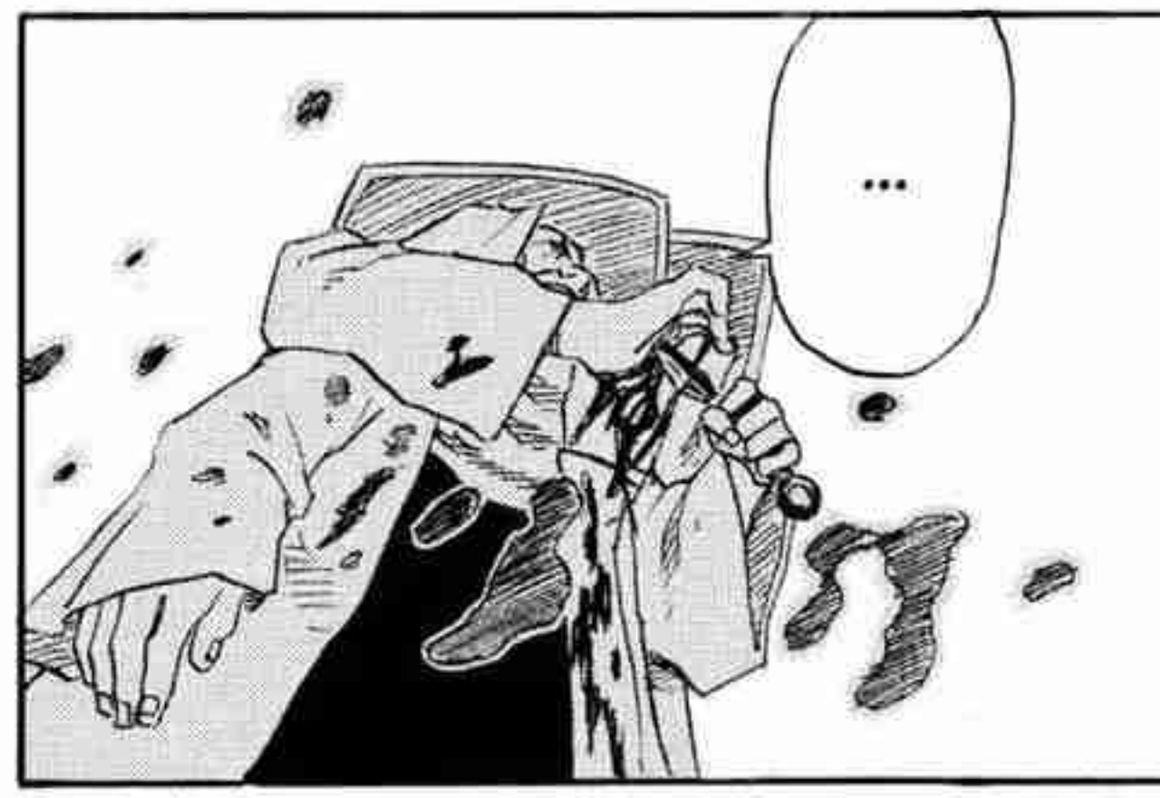
!!

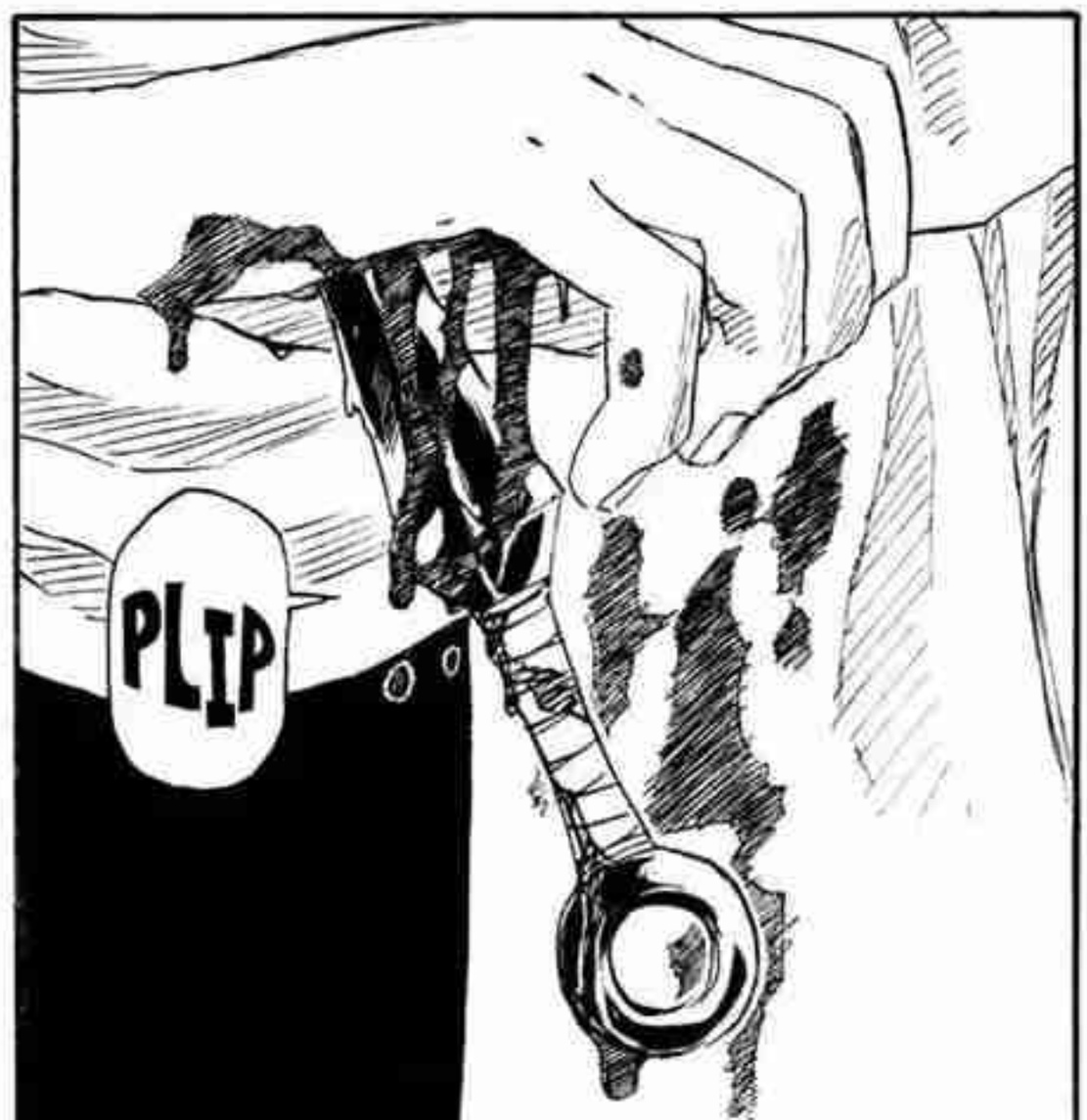
SPLAT!

!

PLIP PLIP

...AT THE THOUGHT OF KILLING YOUR TEACHER AND MENTOR?
...THAT YOU ACTUALLY POSSESS SOME REGRET...


...

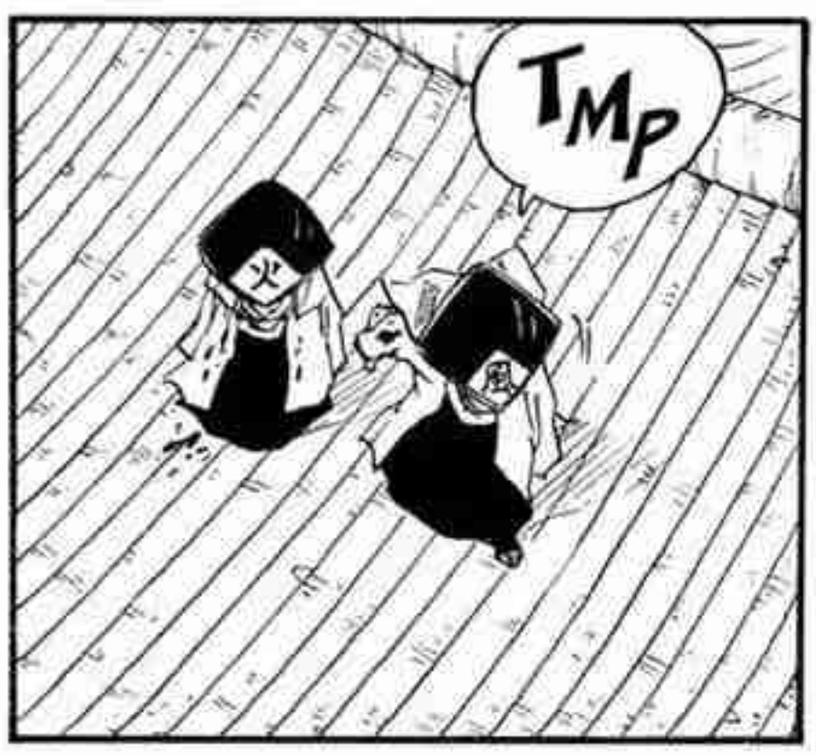

PLIP

THERE... THAT FEELS BETTER.

...!

NAH... JUST A BIT SLEEPY...
SOME TEARS WELLED UP WHEN I YAWNED, THAT'S ALL...
RUB

...!


TMP

EXACTLY AS I SUSPECTED...

HMM... ACTUALLY, I DO HAVE PURPOSE.
WELL, TO PUT IT SIMPLY...

YOU HAVE NEITHER MOTIVES NOR PURPOSE.
I KNOW YOU'RE NOT A MAN TO BE MOVED BY HATRED...

IT'S BORING WHEN THINGS STAND STILL, DON'T YOU AGREE...?

I ENJOY WATCHING MOVING OBJECTS.

THEN AGAIN, WHEN IT'S STOPPED, IT CAN SOMETIMES BE SENTIMENTAL TOO...

SHUP

A MOTIONLESS PINWHEEL ISN'T WORTH WATCHING...

I WANT TO MAKE THE PINWHEEL SPIN WITH THE DESTRUCTION OF KONOHA RIGHT NOW...

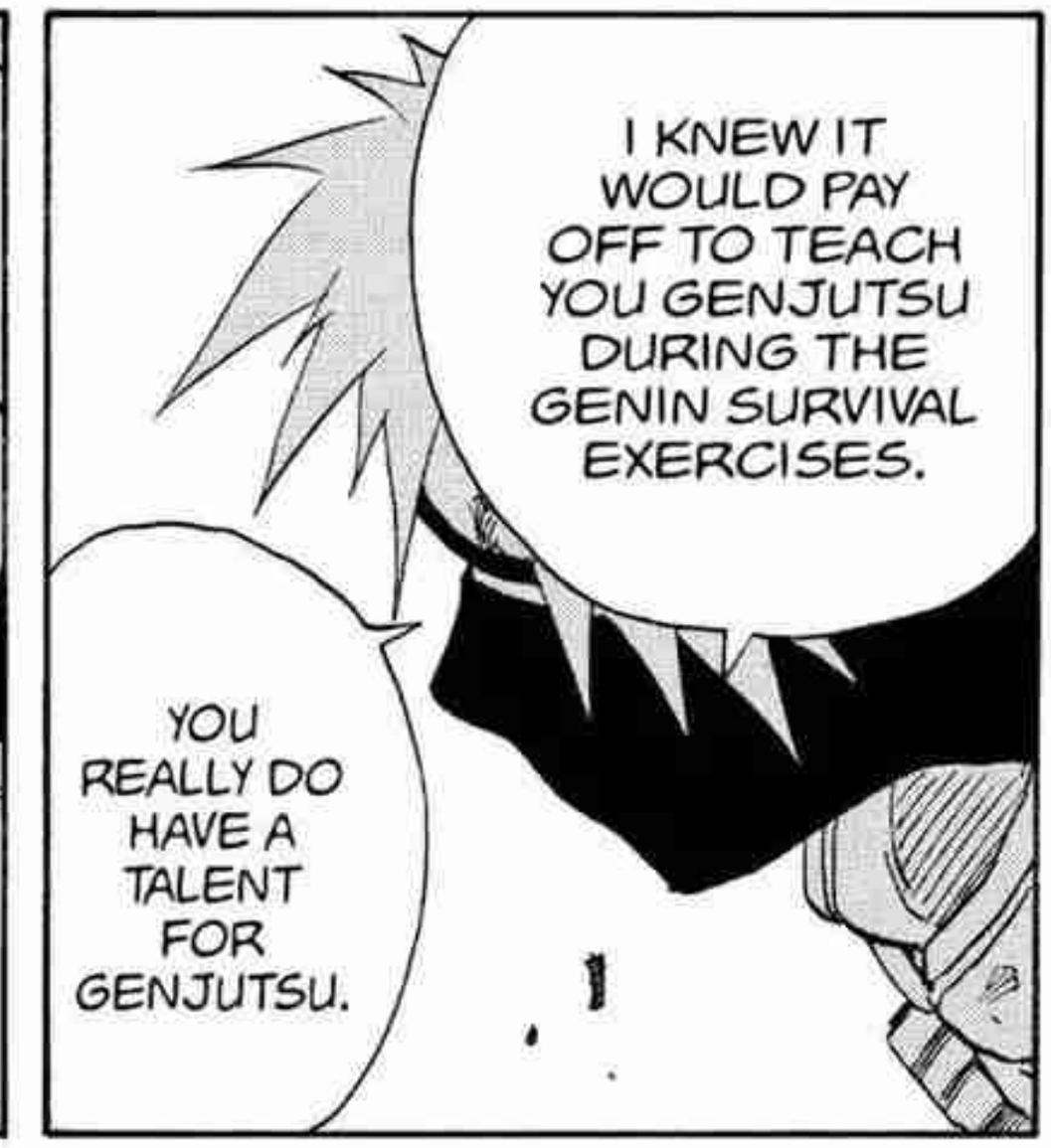
EITHER WAY...

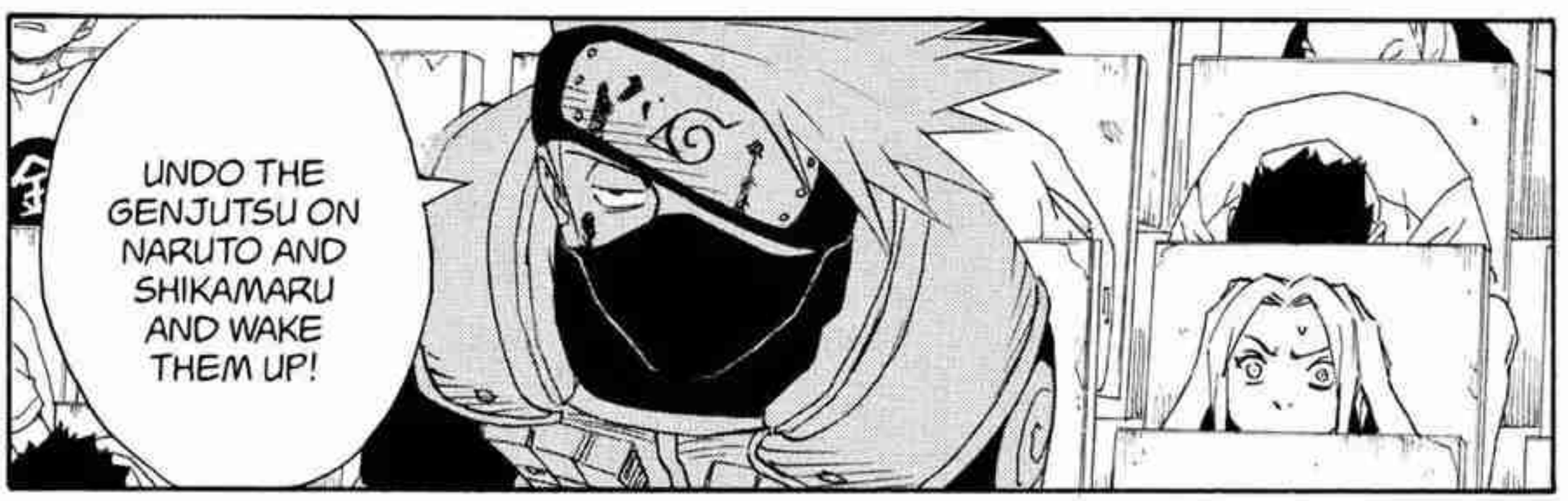
YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED A BIT...

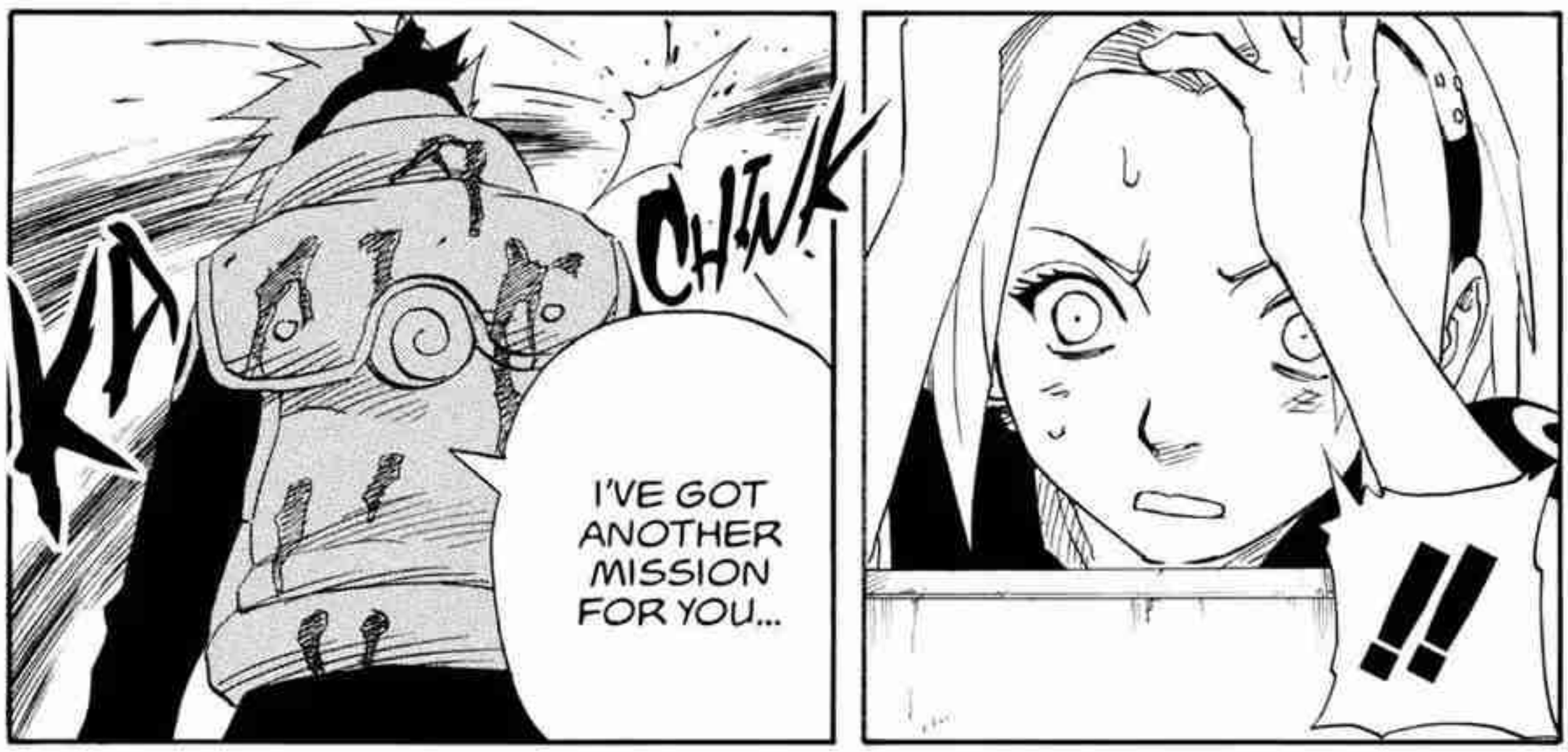
HUMPH...

KA CHING TOMP

SAKURA!






CHINK
I'VE GOT ANOTHER MISSION FOR YOU...
!!

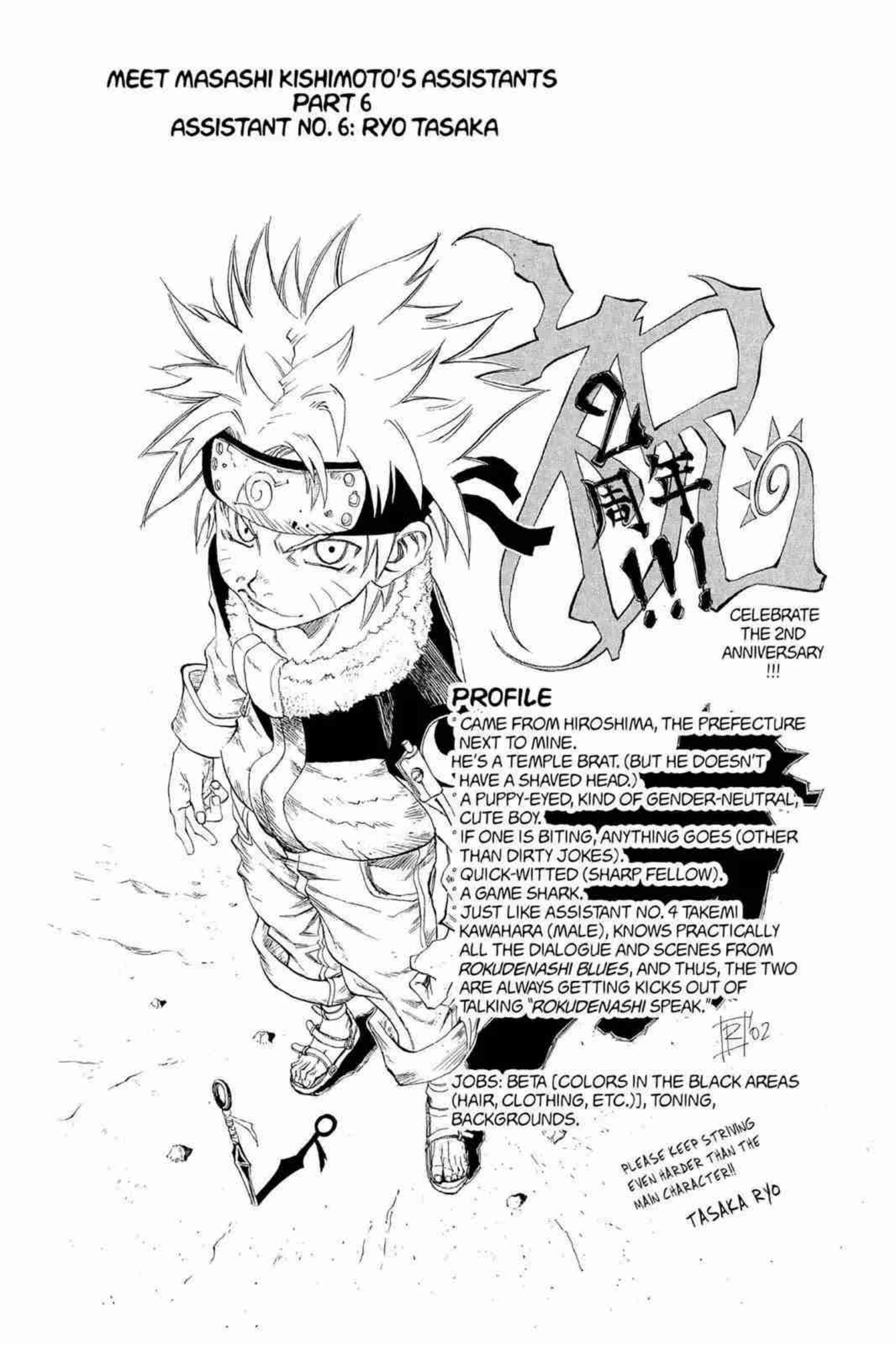
ONE THAT WILL TAKE YOUR FULL FOCUS...
KACHINK
THUD
...!
NARUTO'LL PROBABLY BE HAPPY TO HEAR THAT.
WH-WHAT KIND OF MISSION...?

...THE LIKES YOU HAVEN'T SEEN SINCE THE LAND OF WAVES!!

AN A-RANK ASSIGN-MENT...

WHAT...?!

MEET MASASHI KISHIMOTO'S ASSISTANTS
PART 6
ASSISTANT NO. 6: RYO TASAKA



Number 117:
NARUTO
The Imparted Mission...!!

CHINK

AIEE!

SASUKE IS PURSUING GAARA AND THE OTHER SAND NINJA.

UNDER THESE CONDITIONS, WHAT DO YOU WANT US TO DO...?!!
...MASTER!! AN A-RANK ASSIGN-MENT...?!
SPLAT

...AND CHASE AFTER SASUKE.
SLICE
SAKURA... YOU UNDO THE GENJUTSU ON NARUTO AND SHIKAMARU...

WHAT?!

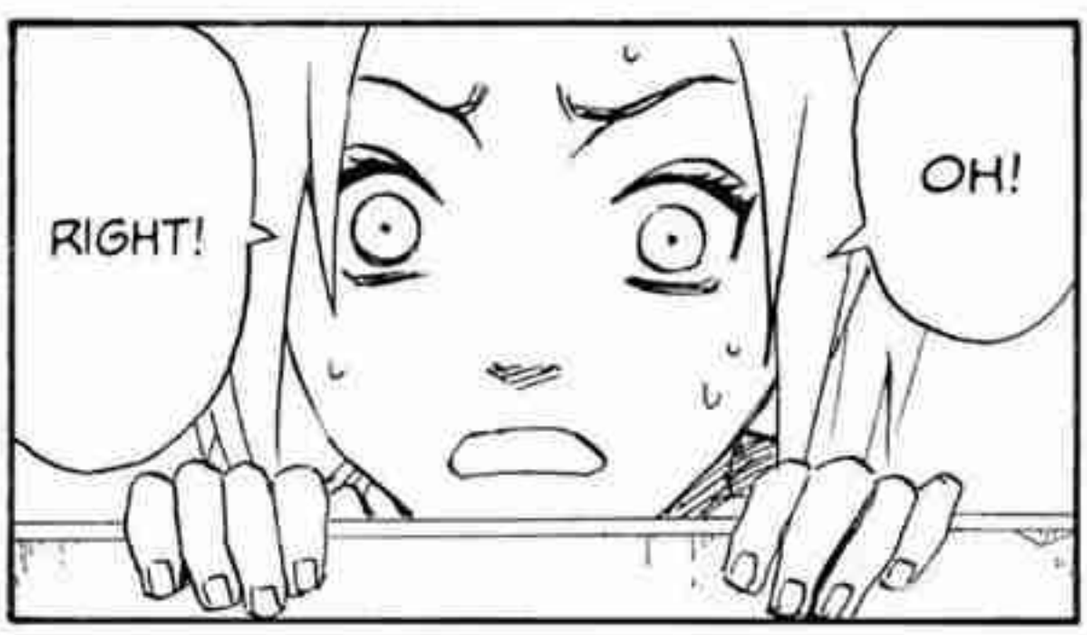
IT WORRIES ME... THAT WEIRD CHAKRA...

WHY DON'T WE WAKE UP INO AND CHOJI TOO AND GO EN MASSE...!
B-BUT, IN THAT CASE...

SHHU

FAP
MOVEMENT BY MORE THAN A BASIC TROOP UNIT OF FOUR WILL DESTROY ANY ADVANTAGE OF SWIFTNESS AND MAKES IT HARDER TO HIDE FROM THE ENEMY...
THEY TAUGHT THAT DURING THE PATROL DRILLS AT THE ACADEMY, DIDN'T THEY?
I SUSPECT THERE IS ALREADY A LARGE NUMBER OF SAND AND SOUND NINJA INSIDE OUR VILLAGE.

BUT YOU JUST SAID FOUR...
WHO'S THE FOURTH...?!
HUH...?!


RIGHT!
OH!

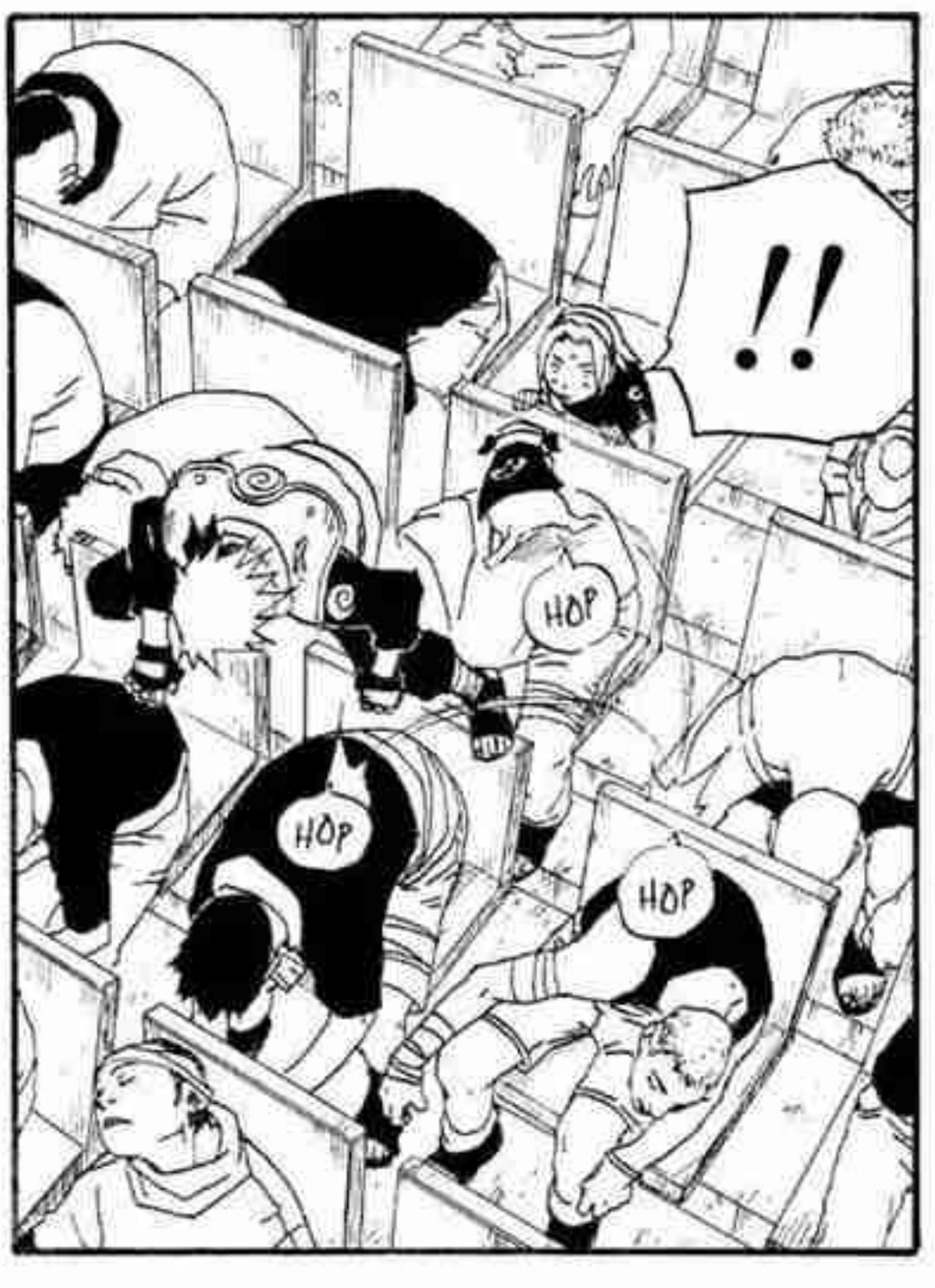
WHOO

KUCHIYOSE NO JUTSU! ART OF SUMMONING!!!

POOF

READ
THIS
WAY

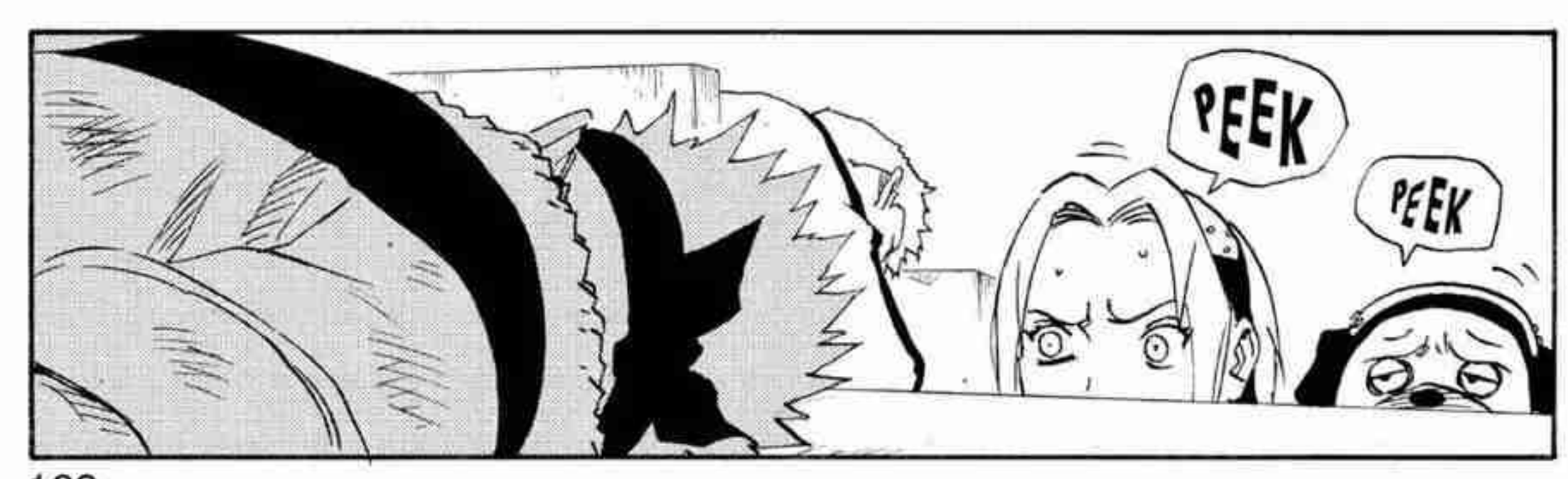
DON'T YOU DARE CALL ME "A CUTE LITTLE DOGGIE"!
HEY, YOU! LITTLE GIRL!!


!!
HOP
HOP
HOP

O-OKAY!
SQUEEZE

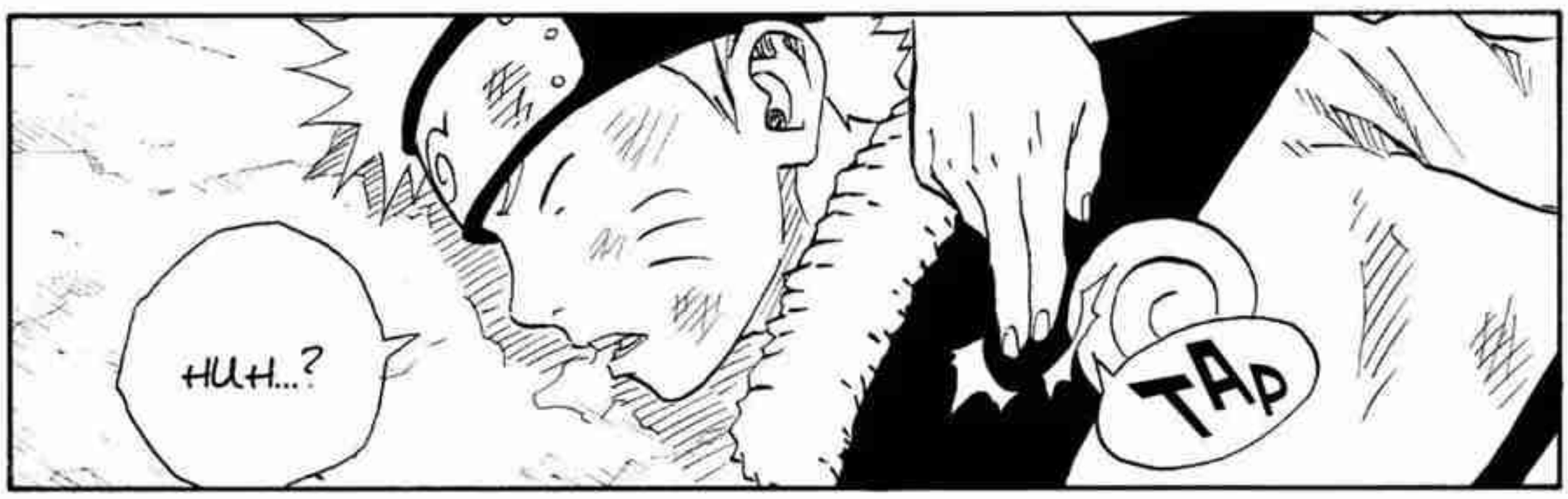
...SAY "CUTE"...
I DIDN'T...

...UNDO THE GENJUTSU ON NARUTO AND SHIKAMARU!
ALL RIGHT! SAKURA...

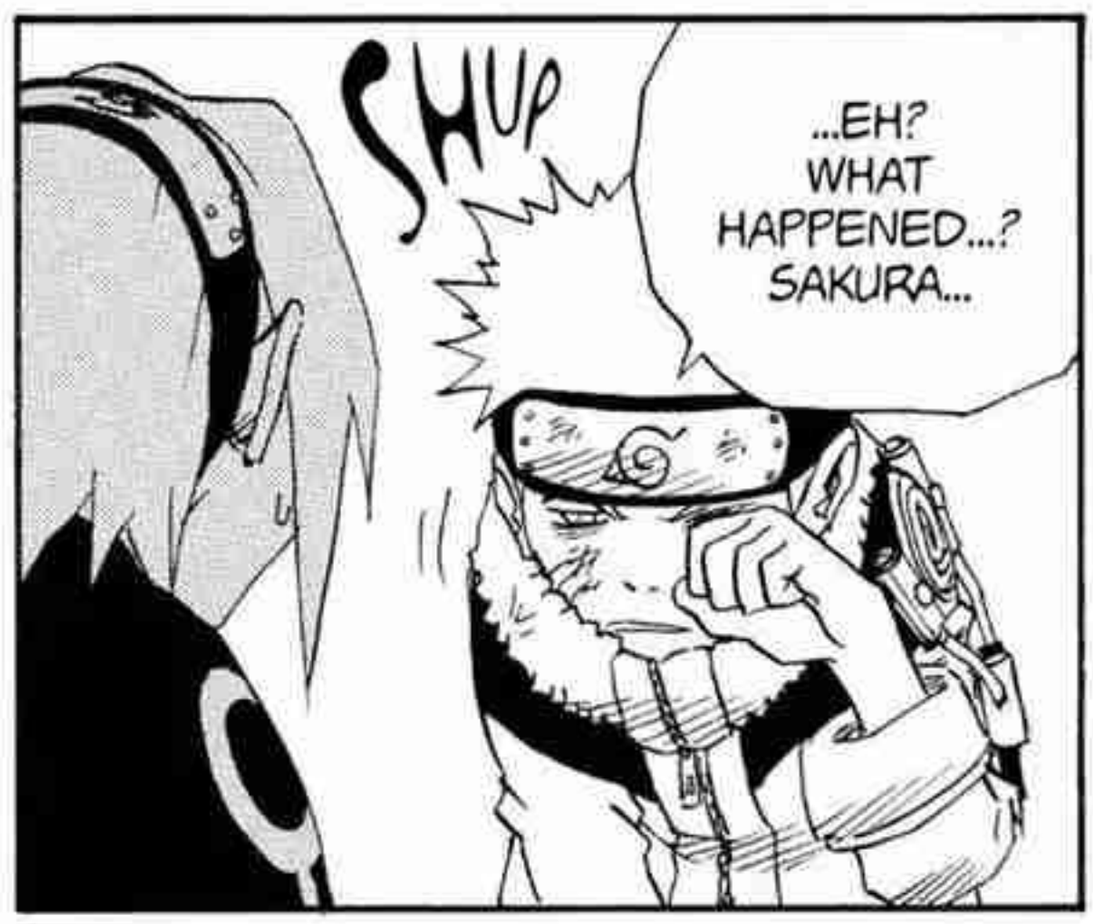

PEEK
PEEK

KAI! RELEASE!!

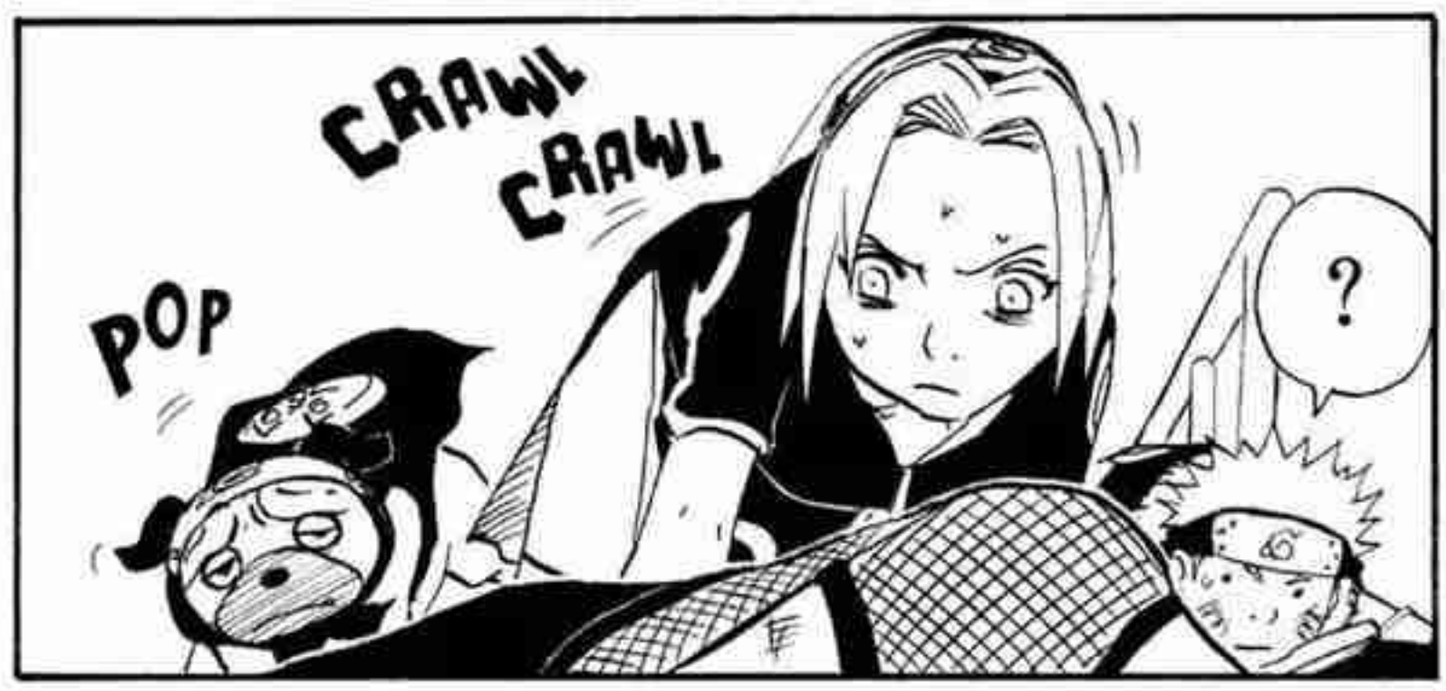
SHWIP
SHWIP


HUH...?
TAP

STAY DOWN!
I'LL TELL YOU LATER!!
HUH?!!


SHUP
...EH? WHAT HAPPENED...? SAKURA...

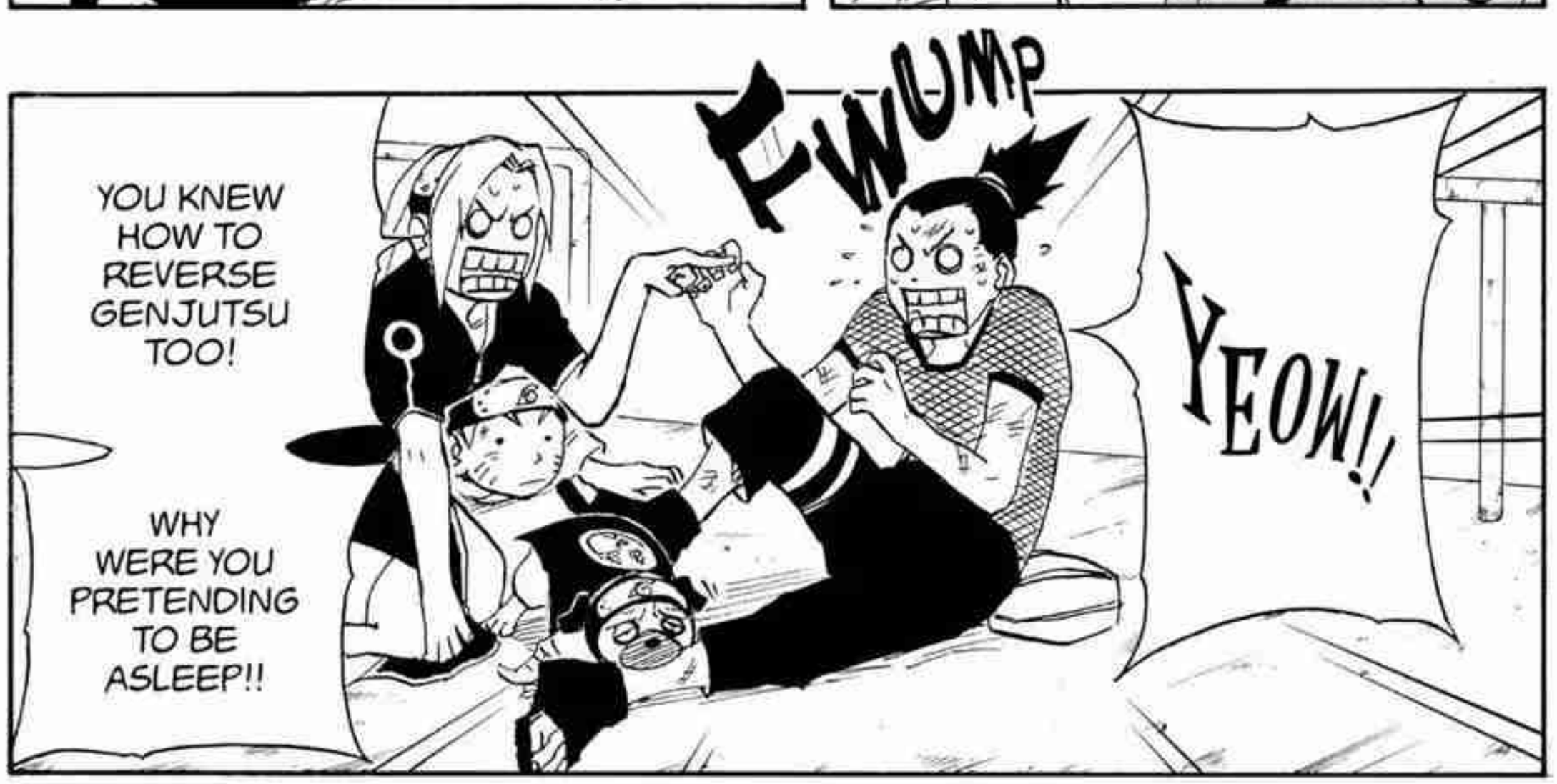
...?!


CRAWL
CRAWL
POP
?

SHIKAMARU, YOU... FROM THE GET-GO...?!

...!

CLAMP


YOU KNEW HOW TO REVERSE GENJUTSU TOO!
WHY WERE YOU PRETENDING TO BE ASLEEP!!
FWUMP
YEOW!!

CHOMP
NO THANKS... I DON'T CARE ABOUT SASUKE...
YOU!
HUMPH... I DIDN'T WANT TO GET DRAGGED INTO IT!
PINCH

KACHINK
KACHINK

OWW!!

NARUTO, BEHIND YOU...!

WH-WHAT THE HECK? WHAT'S...?!
BLUR

THWAP
UGH!
HUH?

SHA HAH!!
I'M NOT JUST FAST...
FAST...
KABOOM
ONCE YOU'VE HEARD IT... HEAD OUT THROUGH THAT HOLE!
OKAY, HERE'S YOUR MISSION!
TMP
!!
...?!
MASTER GUY!!

?!

CHASE AFTER SASUKE, CONVERGE ON HIM, AND STOP HIM!
AND THEN WATCH AND WAIT SOMEWHERE SAFE UNTIL YOU RECEIVE NEW ORDERS!

I'LL EXPLAIN ON THE WAY!
SHUP
DID SOME-THING HAPPEN TO SASUKE...?

SHOOM
WAAH!
BWUMP
LET'S GO!

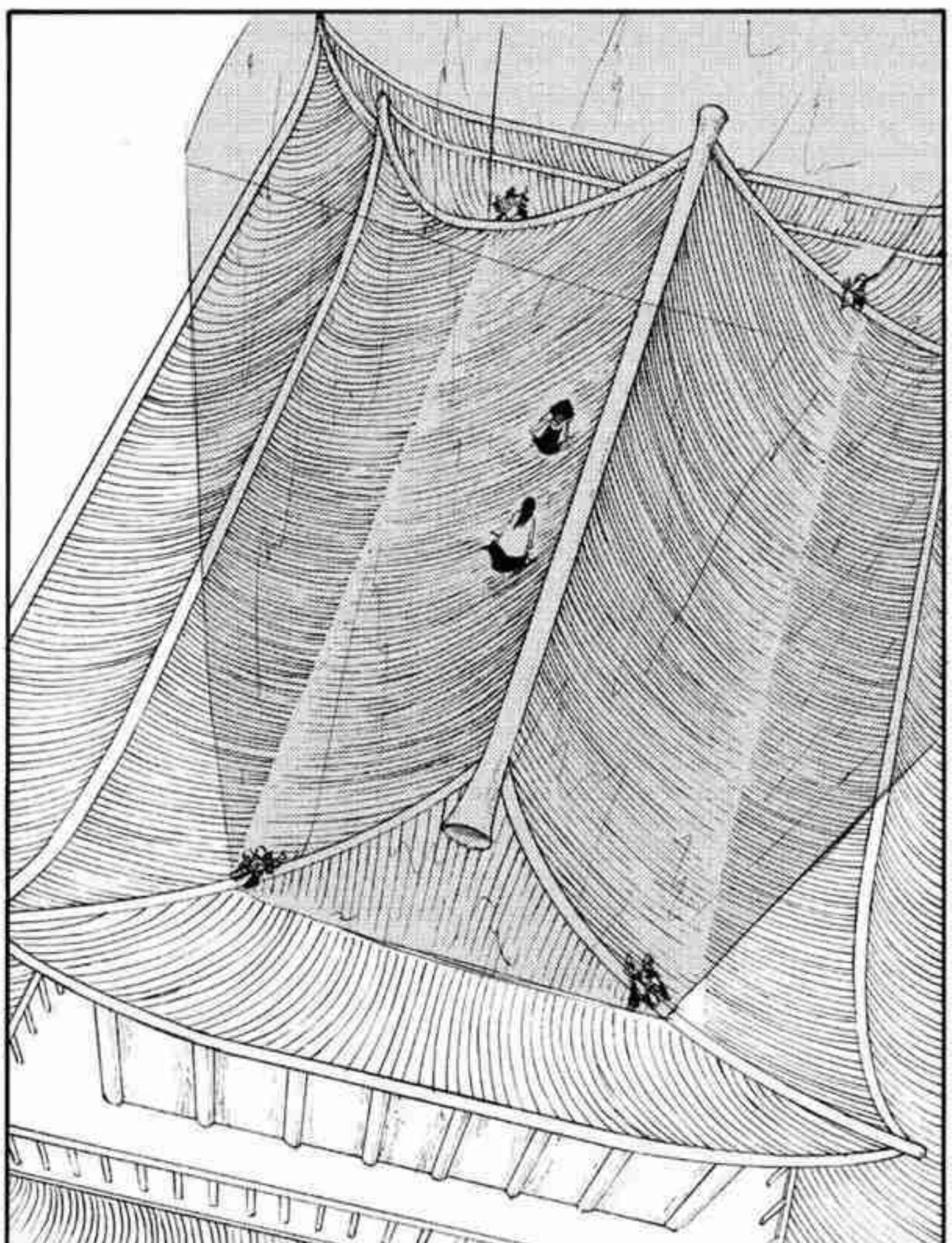
SHOOM

SHA...
SHEESH, WHY ME...?
MUTTER MUTTER

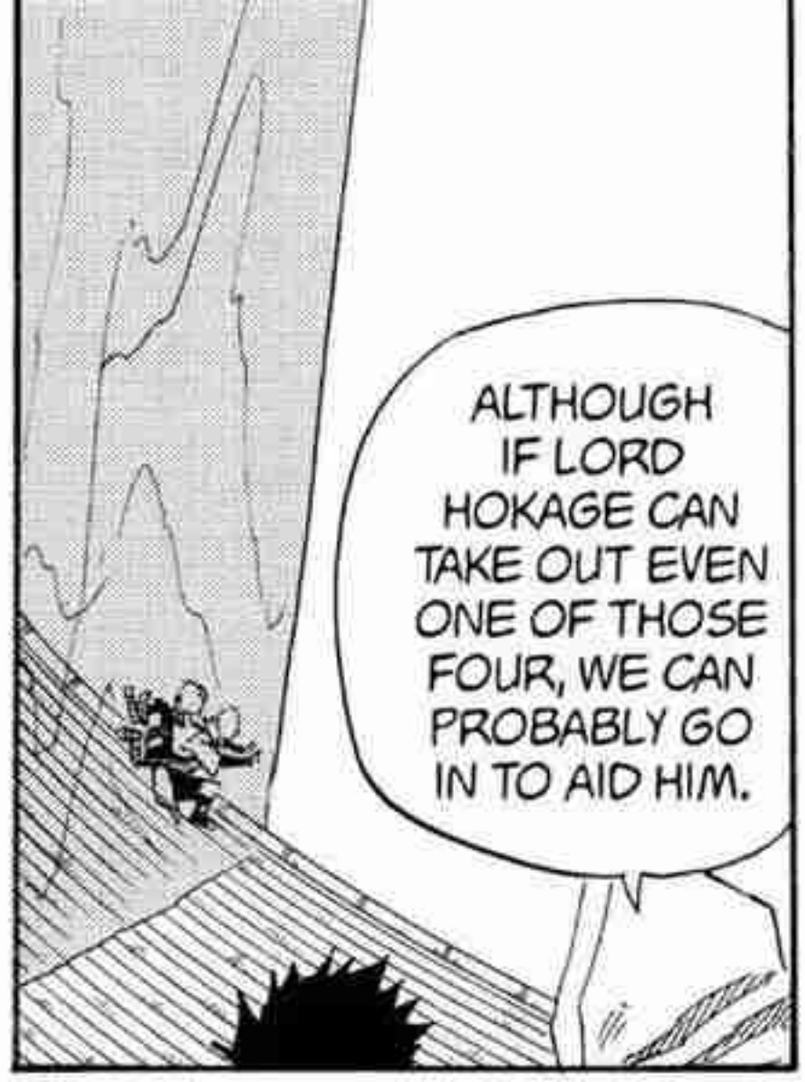
AS LONG AS THEY DON'T PUSH TOO MUCH...

PAKKUN'S WITH THEM. THEY'LL BE ALL RIGHT FOR NOW...

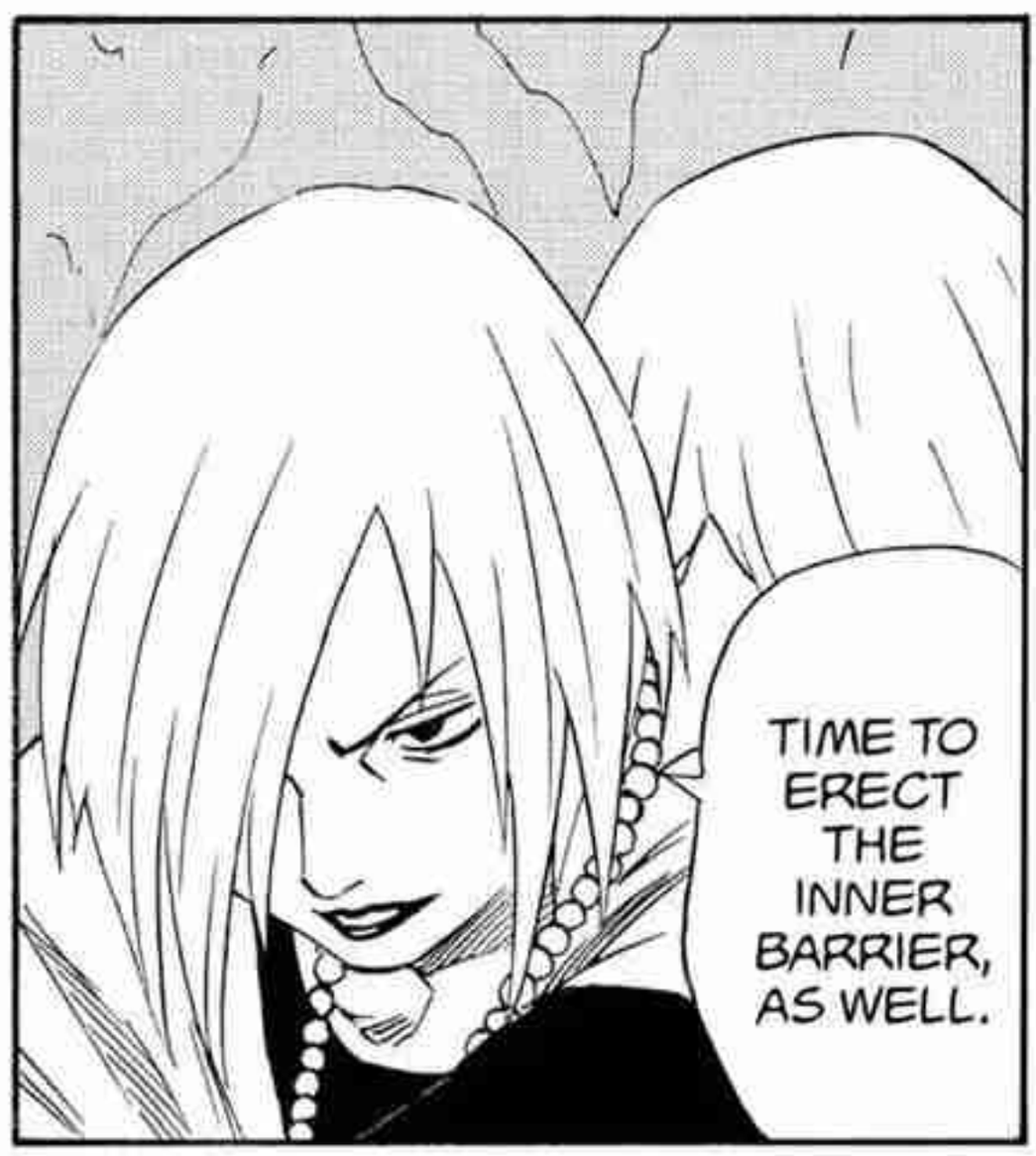
DO YOU THINK JUST THE THREE OF THEM WILL BE ENOUGH?



SFF
HEH HEH HEH... HOW I'VE WISHED TO FIGHT YOU AGAIN...
FWUP
SHA
YOU ANTICIPATED YOUR OWN LAST MOMENTS, EH...?


ALTHOUGH IF LORD HOKAGE CAN TAKE OUT EVEN ONE OF THOSE FOUR, WE CAN PROBABLY GO IN TO AID HIM.

IT LOOKS LIKE THIS BARRIER CAN ONLY BE TAKEN DOWN FROM THE INSIDE...
UGH...


TIME TO ERECT THE INNER BARRIER, AS WELL.

HEY, THEY'RE ABOUT TO START!

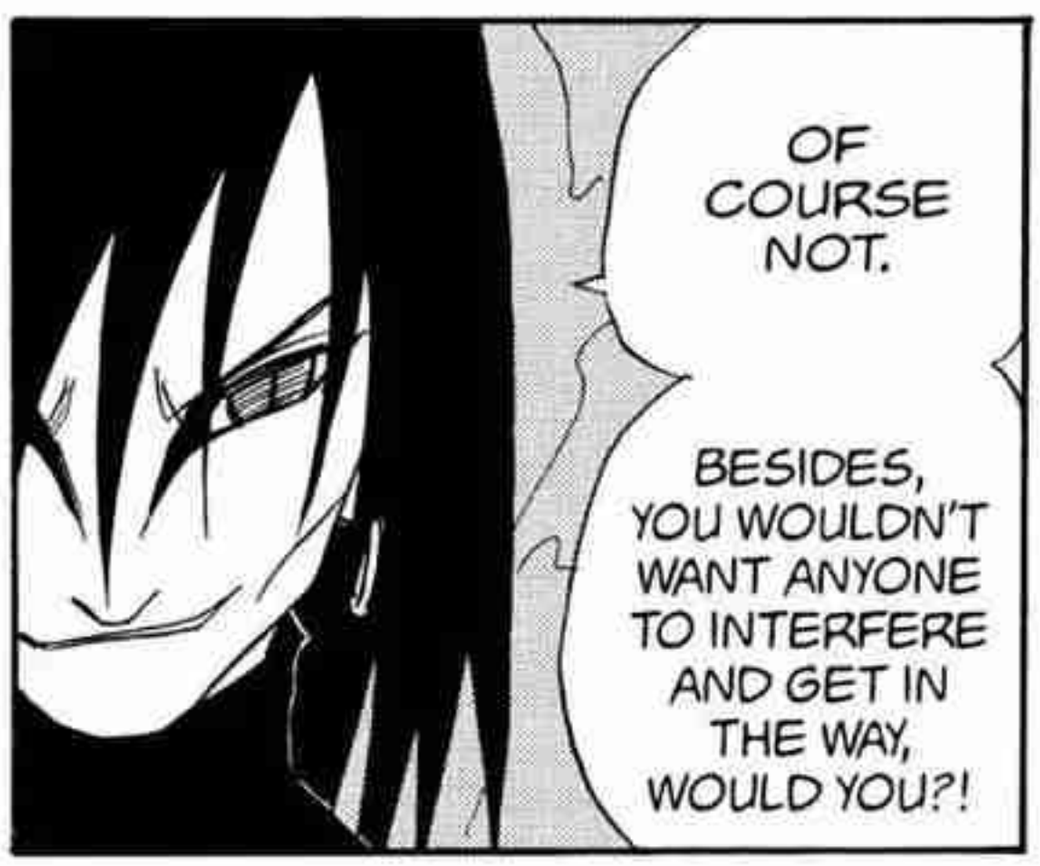
...

EXACTLY!

KS

SH

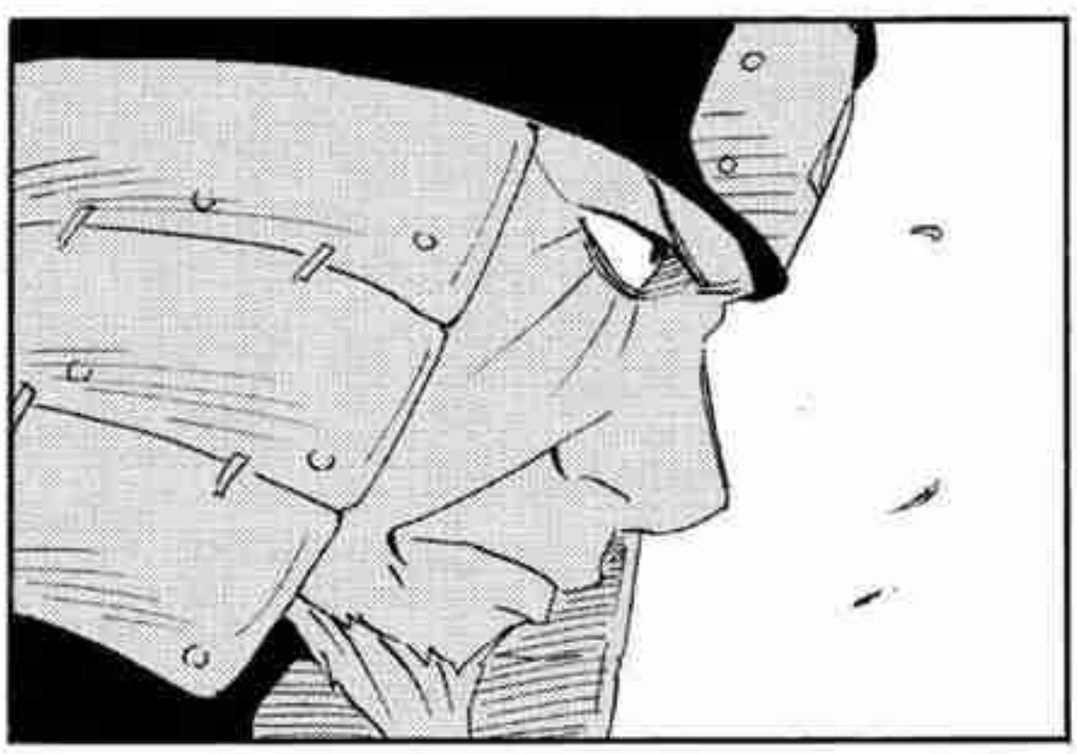
HAH!!

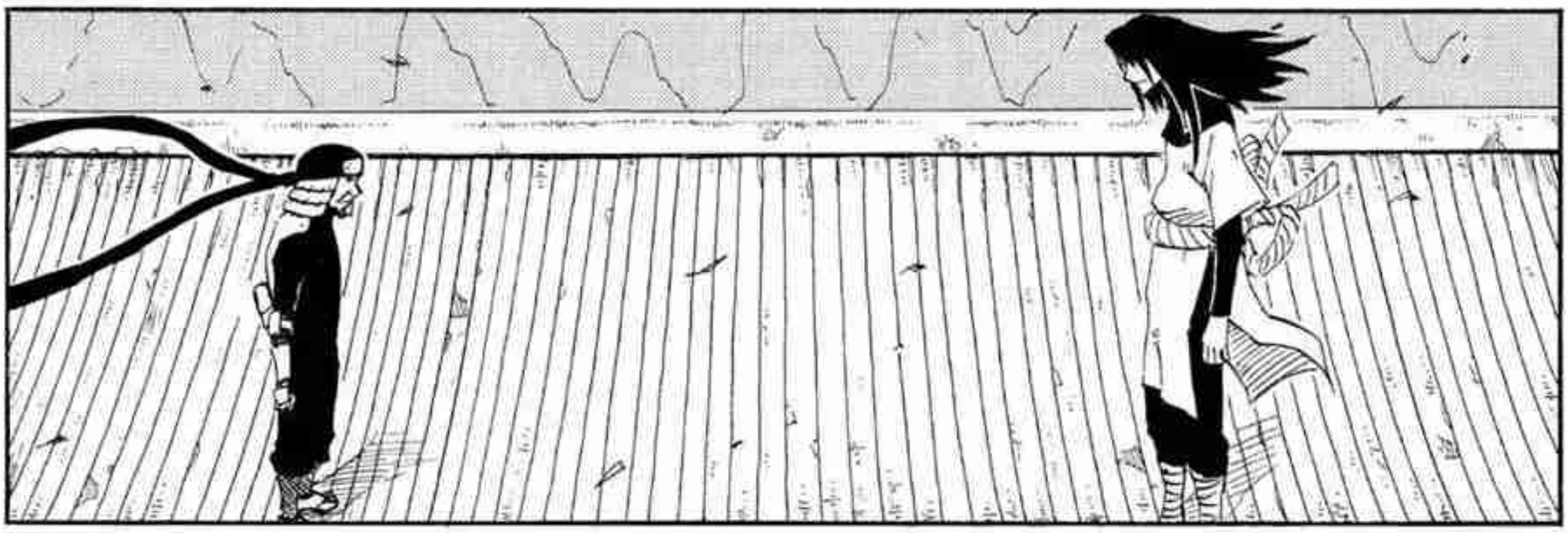

OF COURSE NOT.
BESIDES, YOU WOULDN'T WANT ANYONE TO INTERFERE AND GET IN THE WAY, WOULD YOU?!

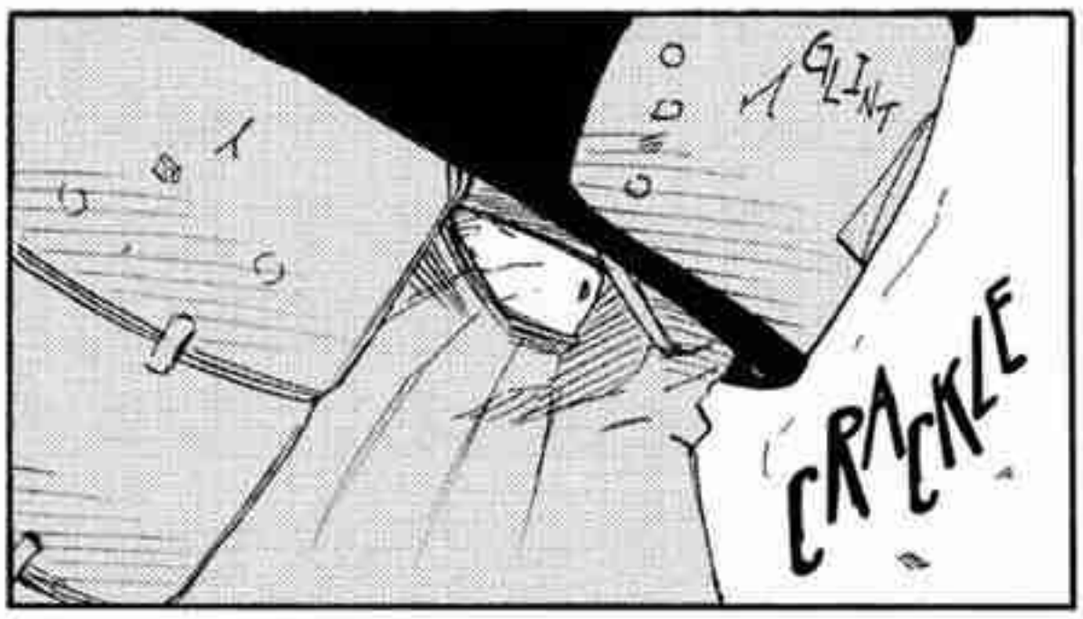
HUMPH... IT DOESN'T LOOK EASY TO ESCAPE FROM...

HMPH...

READ
THIS
WAY






GLINT
CRACKLE

CRACKLE

CRACK

SHOU

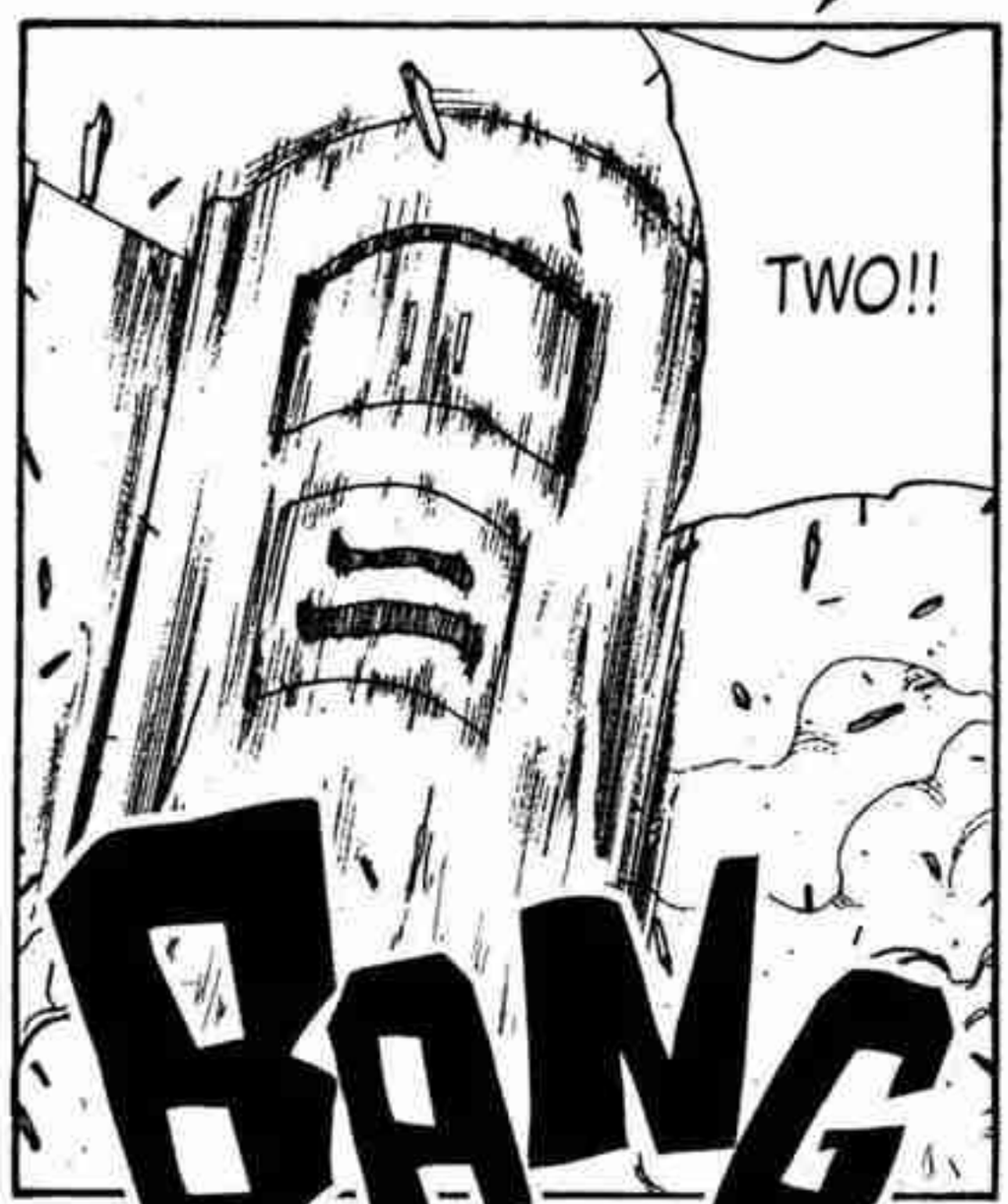
代目火影
CHAK
SHUNK

SHWP
SHWP
SHWP
SHWP
SHWP
SHWP

READ THIS WAY
SHURIKEN SHADOW DOPPELGANGER TECHNIQUE!
SPLIT
SHOWER
BRAKE
KUCHIYOSE: EDOTENSEI! SUMMONING: REANIMATION!

HE'S USING THEM AS A SHIELD...!
COULD HE REALLY BE RAISING THOSE SPIRITS...?!
SHWIP

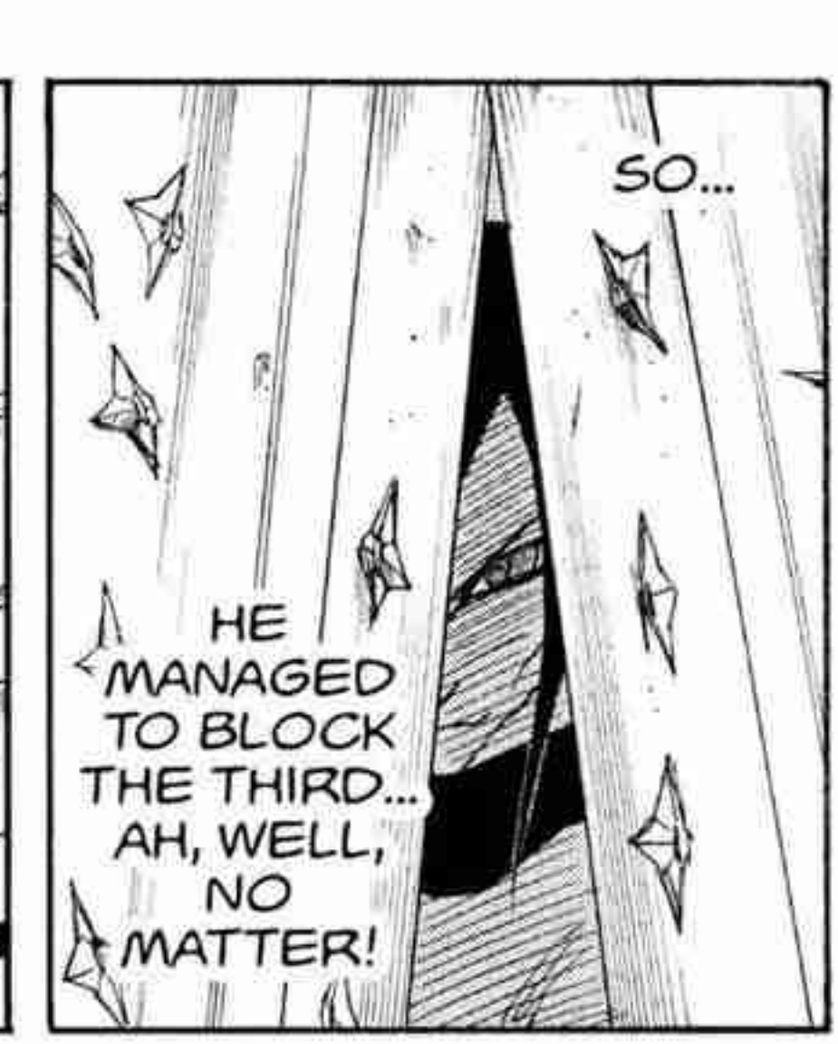
ONE!!
BOOM


TWO!!
BANG

SHWIP
UGH... I MUST PREVENT HIM FROM RAISING THE THIRD, NO MATTER WHAT...

THOCK THOCK THOCK THOCK THOCK THOCK

THREE!!



TO BE CONTINUED IN *NARUTO* VOLUME 14!!